Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-121
Monday
24 June 1991

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FBIS-NES-91-121 *24 June 1991*

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Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif on Negotiations With Israel, Lebanon

NC2206091391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Report on interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] London, 22 Jun (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, media adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, denounced the incidents between the Hamas movement and Fatah in the occupied territories. He said actions by some groups are irresponsible and open gaps that Israel could exploit to damage the Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied territories.

In an interview with the London-based Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Bassam Abu-Sharif stressed that the PLO is working seriously and tirelessly to put an end to these mistakes so the people will not get weary of and disassociate themselves from the activists there. He added that restoring vitality to the intifadah now is the PLO's first priority because the occupation confrontation requires participation from all groups of the people as a single unit.

On changes within the PLO ranks, 'Arafat's adviser said: We are now preparing for a new National Council, through which elections will be held. We should not rule out the possibility of setting up the appropriate "state institutions," through which it would be possible to deal with the coming political developments.

In his interview, Bassam Abu-Sharif reiterated his assertion that the PLO accepts international legitimacy as a good basis for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and that legitimacy is represented by the principle of two states in the land of Palestine, as stipulated in Resolution 181 and by Resolution 242, which specifies Israel's withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967. He said the Palestinians accept a Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967 and also recognize Israel's right to live behind internationally guaranteed secure borders.

He expressed the PLO's readiness to negotiate on the security measures that would assure all countries, including Israel, and which could involve the deployment of an international peacekeeping force or UN observers on the borders between the two countries. He said the Palestinians accept a short transitional phase, during which the United Nations would be in charge of the occupied territories and the conditions for national independence would be prepared. He noted that the PLO also agrees to holding free elections and a free referendum, under the supervision of the United Nations or any independent international body, so the people can determine their fate, opt for their national independence, and choose their representatives to a Palestinian constituent general assembly that would include representatives of all the Palestinian people.

He also said the PLO accepts direct negotiations with Israel under international supervision, either that of the United Nations, Europe, or the Soviet Union and the United States.

On relations between the PLO and Lebanon, Bassam Abu-Sharif said the contacts held between the PLO, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and Syria greatly helped to clarify the PLO's position of placing all its resources at the disposal of the Lebanese legitimacy and its willingness to help in whatever would restore sovereignty to its owners.

He added: We do not want to open marginal battles. The [Palestinian] Liberation Army in Lebanon is part of the Palestinian presence, whether in Syria, Jordan, or elsewhere. This army's presence should be subject to the same rules as those applied in the other Arab countries.

On European-Palestinian relations, 'Arafat's adviser expects the ministerial-level meetings to be resumed following numerous meetings between a number of Palestinian and British officials.

On the PLO's relations with the United States, Abu-Sharif said that contacts are continuing through a third party, which he did not name.

'Hundreds' Reportedly Deported From Kuwait

NC2306175491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] for the Lebanon region has disclosed that Kuwaiti authorities have expelled hundreds of Palestinians working in Kuwait on the first day of 'Id al-Adha.

The spokesman noted that the Palestinian people's tragedy has assumed dangerous dimensions that threaten the entire community. He called on the Kuwaiti authorities to stop their actions against human rights and to stop being like the Israeli enemy in suppressing the Palestinian people's will.

PLO Sends Urgent Memo on Kuwaiti 'Tragedies'

LD2006194991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The PLO has sent an urgent memorandum about the tragic situation experienced by the Palestinian community in Kuwait to the Arab League ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], the chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement, the OAU, the EEC chairmanship, and the Human Rights Committee. The PLO also called on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to intervene quickly and contact Kuwaiti officials to put an end to these tragedies.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Criticizes U.S. Policy

JN2006200791 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1649 GMT 20 Jun 91

["Text" of address by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, during a graduation ceremony for participants in "the Martyr Abu-Tariq 'Abbas course for commanders of factions and groups and the Holy al-Aqsa martyrs course for fedayeen" on 20 June; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and blessings be upon the master of prophets and his family. Comrade brothers and sisters: As we meet today, we see a new group of our people and nation joining the fields of combat and confrontation. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, we are passing through a difficult stage in which balances of power have been reversed and turned upside down. There was a socialist bloc headed by the Soviet Union, which confronted imperialism and reactionaries. This bloc fell apart overnight before the bloc of imperialism and its [word indistinct]. The former bloc was a source of real support for our people, nation, and all the oppressed on earth. This bloc and its leader are now merely people panting for a loaf of bread and begging from Western nations. This is not an easy matter. It is not easy to underestimate what happened. America and the powers of arrogance are now emerging victorious from the mock battle they waged in the Gulf. America says: We solved the Vietnam complex in the desert sand. America and the West want defeat, not only for Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people, they want a comprehensive, full defeat for all Arabs, Muslims, and all oppressed forces in the world. America and its protege, Israel, want to tighten their grip on this world. The Gulf war, which took place while there were many forces... [one-minute break in reception] or to implement the international community's resolutions on the Palestine question. I ask: Who, among Arab or other leaders, would have dared adopt a different political position? At one time they say that the road to Palestine passes through Iran, and another through Kuwait or Juniyah. The path to Palestine is clear and does not need a great deal of political analysis. If Saddam wants to punish the Gulf states, (?he could have) headed for Palestine, where, had he achieved victory, he would have found all the Gulf leaders submissive to him. However, he preferred inter-Arab fighting and moved away from the real confrontation. We cannot be deceived by several missiles launched into the Zionist entity during that battle. Many popular and official political forces opposed Saddam Husayn's program. Many of these forces allied themselves with the United States. When we met with these forces, we said: If we are against Saddam, we must not be with the United States. There must be a third way, which was represented by Syria, Iran, Libya, and Algeria. Their pretext was that they wanted to reduce, as much as possible, the potential harm to the Arab nation. Do we not now need to be true to ourselves and ask: Was this position correct? I want to pose a question to you all. You have recently heard how President Bush received the American pilots who airlifted the Falasha Jews from Ethiopia in the biggest and fastest airlift between Ethiopia and the Zionist entity. Who carried out the airlift? It was America and President Bush personally. President Bush received those pilots at an official reception at the U.S. White House. He gave them medals. He did not give medals to the U.S. pilots who fought the Gulf war. He gave medals to the U.S. pilots who airlifted the Falasha Jews from Ethiopia to Palestine. I want to ask: Is not such an act the ultimate contempt for us as a nation, people, and rulers? The other question: Why this insolence on the part of the U.S. President, especially since a large number of the Arab rulers stood alongside him in the Gulf war? Why this contempt? Is it political foolishness? Is it ignorance on the part of the President of the United States of America? I tell you: It is neither foolishness nor contempt, but rather the relationship between the United States and the arrogant powers on the one hand and the Zionist entity on the other. This is not merely a relationship of interests, but an ideological relationship. By doing this, Bush is making an ideological-religious move that he feels responds to what the Torah says. Bush turned the UN Security Council into an international society from which he obtained 13 resolutions within two or three months and waged a war under the UN banner.

When we turn to the Palestine question and say that there are resolutions by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, Bush and Baker say: We cannot impose peace on this region. There are resolutions, especially 242, which call for Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. It is a UN Security Council resolution. How can you not [words indistinct] and tell the Israelis, please just withdraw? Resolution 425 provides for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. When resolutions are against us, they want to implement the resolutions by force, but when the implementation of resolutions is in favor of our nation, then Bush and Baker say we cannot impose peace.

Brothers and sisters, those are your enemies. America is behaving arrogantly. Following the Gulf war, America began to break the bones of every Arab country, one after another. I say—I hope I am incorrect—that the (?only) forces standing against and confronting these U.S. desires in this region are the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Libya. All others are (?servants) to the U.S. Administration. During his visits, Baker proposed capitulationist plans that are in the interest of the Zionist entity. However, the Zionist entity does not agree and says it wants guarantees. It says even if meets with the Arabs, it wants guarantees. [passage omitted]

Concluding my speech, this country, which was [words indistinct]; namely, Syria, and the leadership of the Syrian Republic under President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] This country is now being exposed to the cruelest pressures that could be applied against it. That is

because they know that Syria holds the key to the Middle East. Hence, when you hear some sweet words by American envoys and see that they come and go, please, brothers and sisters, do not be deceived. They want to harm Syria, its party and leader, and to distance the masses themselves from this leadership. They are deceptive. They persist in the psychological war. They know that they are incapable of weakening Syria and Hafiz al-Asad. That is why they are trying to harm Syria. Baker comes and goes. The naive observer thinks there are deals in the dark or under the counter. However, President Hafiz al-Asad was clear with them. [words indistinct] circumstances.

But as we are witnesses, along with you, the language of mild conversation and moderate politics turned into the language of the big stick. The United States has begun to say that Syria is the leader of terrorism and that Syria is a terrorist state, that Syria possesses missiles. Many Western quarters say that Hafiz al-Asad is much worse and more dangerous than Saddam Husayn.

Brothers and sisters, Syria is exposed to an Israeli offensive that will start through a provocation in Lebanon and [word indistinct]. This means that, according to the American-Israeli equation, these weapons and armies must be finished off and destroyed. Even economic projects will be destroyed. These enemies of ours want us to be stripped of everything. Therefore, I advise you that you should not be deceived. When you read yellow papers and listen to deceptive radio stations, do not become too enthusiastic. In the battle, if we do not stand together, there will be difficulty in waging it. We trust Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ayyash Comments on PLO-Hamas Differences

PM2006144191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jun 91 p 2

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of Palestinian Journalists Association, by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] The incidents experienced in the occupied territories have aroused the concern of those following the intifadah, especially as the infighting between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah has many negative aspects. How are conditions now, and have the efforts you made alongside others succeeded in ending them?

[Abu-'Ayyash] It is obvious that in its march toward freedom any society struggling for its right to live in freedom, independence, and dignity will face some problems among the ranks of those who are struggling for that freedom. The truth is that the problems that occur from time to time are the result of one thing and one factor—the occupation, its repression, and the suffering of our kinfolk in the occupied territories, which is increasing daily as a result of the serious economic conditions and the siege imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities and the other practices which make struggle a complex and complicated process. And the problems that emerge within the Palestinian national movement represented by the PLO and Hamas from time to time are not fundamental or deep. They result from individual contradictions at the level of performance and action. This is because the aim of all the Palestinian people's sons wherever they are is to get rid of the Israeli occupation. But the method and the means differ from one person to another and from one working group to another. I had the honor with some combatant brothers in Nabulus of containing that regrettable problem which occurred among our sons, and with God's help the issue was resolved, with the intention that rules be drawn up to govern the field relationship among the Palestinian struggle and jihad parties in order to overcome, God forbid, any future problems. Perhaps the fact that the Hamas brothers are outside the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah makes it important that they coordinate with it in order to resolve any problems or contradictions in action that may occur in the future, not only to prevent problems or any regrettable incidents, but also because the need for unified action prompts all to be united in a closely knit body, supporting one another, because strife is doomed to failure and serves nothing except occupation schemes and the spread of division and fragmentation. The maxim of occupation is known—"divide and conquer." Therefore we in the occupied territories cannot accept that maxim at all. This is because are we are exerting our utmost efforts to correct intranational relations and national relations with our brothers in Hamas, or among any groups that may be faced with a problem. Our people are united behind the PLO, but this necessarily means that we all are against the occupiers and are working together for the sake of ending the Israeli occupation so peace will prevail in Jerusalem, in its different areas, and in every inch of our sacred Islamic land.

Perhaps we—and our Arab and Muslim people everywhere—feel sad when a problem occurs among the brothers struggling for the sake of right and freedom. This occurs because such problems have serious effects on our people and their steadfastness on the inside, since they weaken their determination, reduce their steadfastness, and allow the occupation to strengthen its positions and adopt a spectator's attitude.

Thus I call on all the sincere forces on the inside and the outside to work to close ranks and unite efforts for the sake of strengthening national unity, to end the brutal occupation, and put an end to the suffering of our struggling people in the occupied territories.

I also call on all parties to agree on a national action charter that guarantees the organization of relations with the brothers in Hamas and the organization of influential personalities of the intifadah, which burdens all the Palestinian people. That charter should be based on the following points:

1. Preventing the phenomenon of veiling faces before Palestinian masses.

2. Not committing any excess, whatever the reason.

3. Total and comprehensive coordination among the leaderships in the field.

4. Concentrating on resolving economic and social problems in a prompt manner.

5. Building the economic and social establishment on the basis of provision for the needy and within a priorities plan that is clear and detailed.

6. Warning against all the dangers that will surround us all if that charter is not adhered to. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What is the outcome of the meetings held between Palestinians from the occupied territories and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Abu-'Ayyash] It is true that the meeting held between some brothers and U.S. Secretary of State Baker have not until now produced tangible results, and this is attributed to two main reasons about which our people have known the truth from the outset. They are: that the Israeli intransigence and arrogance will continue. Perhaps the policy of continuing to build settlements on Arab land, the policy of starvation and organized repression, and all the other occupation policies prove that the Israeli Government is intransigent and rejects peace. It is saying no to the PLO, no to Jerusalem, no to an international conference, no to Security Council resolutions, no to an effective European role, no to international legitimacy, and no to a settlement based on right and justice. While Israel's leaders launch resounding statements about their love of peace to deceive the world, Israeli ministers continue to implement the policy of rejection on the ground. So what peace are they talking about and to what U.S. endeavors are they opposed?

As for the second reason, it lies in the fact that the United States is exerting no real pressures on Israel, nor is it taking any stances to put Israel in a defensive position. So the policy of double standards pursued by the United States is clear. I believe that the policy of the shuttle meetings conducted by Baker cannot succeed unless the the U.S. Administration enters through the gate of international legitimacy and finds the necessary means to pressure Israel and force it to respect UN Security Council resolutions.

Regarding representation options, it is clear that the representation issue concerns the Palestinian people and is one of their internal issues. Our people have declared on several occasions that the PLO is their sole legitimate representative. Indeed, our people are surely the only ones capable of choosing the form that should represent them in any negotiations. I believe that the problem lies not in the form but in the essence, which is the following question: What can Israel offer? Will it recognize the right to self-determination? Will it recognize the land-for-peace principle? Will it continue the negotiations until a comprehensive settlement is secured? Does it have a complete view of the peace process just as the Palestinians have a comprehensive peace plan, which was launched in 1988? All these questions are the fundamental matters which should be concentrated on in formal terms. Nevertheless, the PLO can clearly decide the Palestinian representation method. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Curfew Reimposed on Algiers, Other Villages

LD2306181591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The military authority responsible for the implementation of the state of siege has reimposed the curfew on the capital and the neighboring villages and has for the first time imposed a curfew from 25 June on El Oued Village.

Military Authorizes Prayers for 21 Jun

LD2006224191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] A communique issued by the military authorities has pointed out that in consideration of festivities marking 'Id al-Adha, the military authorities, empowered with the administration of the state of siege, out of their concern not to hinder the good observance of the religious celebrations in accordance with the Suna [prophet's teaching], have asked the administrative authorities at the level of wilayas [provinces] to authorize—following consultations with local religious authorities—any measure that might facilitate the 'Id prayers and Friday prayers of 21 June.

For this purpose, the statement went on, streets and public squares adjacent to mosques as well as other open spaces can be used for this end, following the issuance of an administrative-level decision after consultations with the committee for protecting public order.

The statement added that such decisions should indicate streets and places to be used for this purpose; dates and hours should also be indicated.

RCD Leader on New Government

LD1906073991 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The new Algerian Government comprises 29 members. Six had already been present in the previous team, but the majority are uknown to the larger public. A woman was appointed as health minister. Among the newcomers, three have strategic posts. At the Interior Ministry: Abdellatif Rahal; at the Ministry of Economy: Hocine Benissad: and at Foreign Affairs: Lakhdar Brahimi, and for the first time in an Algerian Government, a lawyer, Ali Haroun, becomes minister delegate for human rights. [passage omitted] Listen to the intentions of Maitre Ali Haroun who spoke to Catherine Laurence.

[Begin Haroun recording] We want to create, to institute the idea of respect for human rights, that is, a minimum of rights as provided for by the international charter of human rights, in such a way that this idea spreads among the population and becomes a received idea, because once this government, which is a transitional one, has achieved its mission, this idea will have, whatever the government, whatever the regime, and whatever the state, to spread and these rights to be respected. [end recording]

[Announcer] Ali Haroun, Algerian minister delegate for human rights. Regarding the reactions following the forming of the new government, listen to the leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], Said Saadi, talking to Kamel Djaider:

[Begin Saadi recording] As agreed upon during the talks we had with the prime minister, I notice with pleasure, I must say, that for the first time since independence, Algeria has a non-FLN [National Liberation Front] government. This is extraordinarily important for the country. A page is being turned. There remains now the content, the formation, and the nature of this government. We had recommended to the prime minister to avoid too overcrowded a government, because it is not a question of implementing a political program. It is a question first: of restoring the state authority, second: to guarantee the security of the citizens, and third: to prepare the forthcoming legislative elections in the best conditions possible. For these reasons, we recommended to him to take independent personalities, which has apparently been done, and to have a team standing together and as united as possible. Nevertheless, it seems to me that this government is a little overcrowded. [end recording]

Democratic Alliance Opposes Presidential Elections

LD1706190591 Algiers APS in English 1026 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, 17 June (APS)—In an appeal to the different political formations, the National Alliance of Independent Democrats stood against anticipated presidential elections "in the concern to preserve the national unity, the highest interest of the republic and of democracy."

The national Alliance of the Independent Democrats, having become informed about the future governmental programme of Ghozali, noted that besides the guarantee of the holding of "fair" legislative elections, we are fully backing up, it is also a question of anticipating the presidential elections, which greatly surprised us and raised our disagreement since, we estimated that the present president of the republic, duly elected by referendum, is, and remains legally the only person entitled, as head of state, guarantor of the constitution, (also adopted by the Algerian people on 23 February 1989), to take all the decisions imposed by the conjuncture, and notably to establish, considering the exceptional situation, a salutary state of siege, as a supreme head of the armed forces, and appoint for the circumstance, a new head of government, to whom we wish full success in the reestablishment of social peace, the setting up of a policy of dialogue and not a policy of compromise, the recognition of the legitimacy of votes and not of the street, through the organisaiton of free, loyal, and fair legislative elections." [quotation mark, sentence as received]

Concerning our disagreement on the opportunity to anticipate the presidential elections, it is motivated by political and judicial reasons. It also explains that any

anticipation compromises the preparation and the carrying out of the legislative elections and may hinder the democratic process in the country.

Consequently, the "alliance asks all other political formations who want to preserve the unity of the nation and which care for the supreme interest of Algeria, the republic and democracy, to clearly express their position about this question which we consider to be fundamental at the present time and for the future of Algeria."

Military Leaders Meet With National Press

LD1706222991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Text] The military authorities held a meeting this evening with the national press. Radio correspondent Fadhil Sa'd al-Din reports to us on the meeting:

[Al-Din] The military authorities held a meeting with the public sector national press at the premises of the Ministry of National Defense. This meeting covered several points of interest to our citizens and was within the framework of the new mechanisms and relations linking the army and the national media.

The meeting, which lasted more than two hours, removed some of the ambiguities that had surrounded the measures in force under the state of siege: Why have the military authorities not appeared on television, the radio, or the newspapers?

Frankly, the army's mission is clear constitutionally, that is, to defend constitutional legality and to protect the symbols of the state—although it would be unreasonable for the National People's Army to replace the government which is in the process of being formed.

The powers given to the military authorities were also clarified: The procedures of the police and the National Gendarmerie are taking place in a normal way and are in line with normal procedures.

Also, concerning the statement on the residence of foreigners: It is normal in every state, even under normal circumstances. Concerning the powers of the administrative authority, these have not been taken away from it.

The investigations now taking place are measures with which the police and the National Gendarmerie are empowered under the supervision of the judicial authorities. The intervention of the National People's Army inevitably became linked to the matter once the latter became linked to the fate of the state. [sentence as heard] Such intervention became its constitutional duty.

Regarding the citizens' response to the call made to their parents concerning some of the circumstances in which excesses had been committed, it was confirmed that there had been a response from some parents.

In conclusion, interest was shown in the setting up of new and more lenient frameworks, and new mechanisms for dealing with the media, in the interest of the citizens.

Ghozali Chairs Meeting on Government Directives

LD2106193191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The Government Council held its first meeting today under the chairmanship of Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, devoted to the directives and directions of the government's work and to the approval of an agreement on loans from the World Bank. Ghozali recalled the double aim represented by establishing an atmosphere of reassurance, trust, and civic peace, which can allow for preparing and holding the legislative elections as well as undertaking the daily concerns of the citizens in the economic, social, and cultural fields. Ghozali informed government members about the results of the consultations he has held, which have enabled him to measure the pressing aspirations of society, particularly the regaining of trust, strengthening the feeling of security, and progress of the state's institutions. He noticed in a large group of citizens and the society a vitality that indicates the hope of regaining self-confidence and confidence in the huge resources of the country.

He pointed out that the governmental structure has been prepared with the aim of enabling the government to immediately carry out the duties entrusted to it. In this context, it was formed in accordance with the previous structure, with the introduction of some restructuring, particularly the setting up of the Ministry of Moudjahidines [Ministry of War Veterans], the Ministry of Communications and Culture, and the Ministry of Youth, which has resumed its tasks in the field of sports.

The statement of the Governmental Council adds that the setting up of a ministry in charge of relations with the National People's Assembly and association, as well as a ministry delegate on human rights, will not come during this restructuring process, but with a new administrative apparatus. He highlighted the determination of the government to set up an organized framework as soon as possible for tangible dialogue and consultations with the political associations and social and national representations. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Government Reclaims Palestinian-Owned Lands

NC2306094091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—AL-MASA' newspaper reports today that Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, has approved the reclamation of 2,000 feddans of state lands in al-Buhayrah and al-Sharqiyah governorates from a number of Palestinians residing in Egypt.

Engineer Amin Mina, the Agriculture Ministry's under secretary for reclamation and distribution, stated that these Palestinians obtained these feddans in accordance with Law No. 15 of 1963, which banned foreigners from owning land in Egypt but specifically excluded Palestinians, thus allowing them to own agricultural lands in Egypt. Law No. 104 of 1985 was then passed which ruled out any exceptions, including Palestinians.

Eng. Mina said the Palestinians were given a five-year grace period to dispose of these lands either by selling them to the state or to individual Egyptians. He added that the grace period ended without the Palestinians disposing of these lands, and thus the state possessions management affiliated with the agricultural reclamation authority reclaimed 2,000 feddans and returned them to state ownership.

AFP Interviews Foreign Minister on Peace, Gulf

NC2006181291 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, June 20 (AFP)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa warned Thursday that U.S. peace efforts in the Middle East will flounder if no decision is taken soon, and put the blame for the delays on Israel.

"The matter should be decided in a few weeks, not to drag on and on and on because dragging means failure of the initiative ... That would be very sad and will have serious reprercussions," Mr. Musa told Agence France-Presse.

He also warned that his country will not accept a "status quo" in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Musa was speaking in a wide-ranging interview that focused on U.S. efforts to convene a regional peace conference between Israel and the Arabs.

"If there is no peace or no peace process, we will have to be very clear about that: we shall not accept the continuation of the status quo in the occupied territories or to accept the imposition of fait accompli.

"The world will have to face up to many challenges if any party fails in the peace process," the Egyptian foreign minister said.

He declined to say what action Egypt might take saying only: "We shall cross that bridge when we will have to."

Mr. Musa said Israel was to blame for failing to accept earlier this month proposals by U.S. President George Bush for a compromise solution that could help unblock the peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has toured the Middle East four times since the end of the Gulf war in March to help secure backing for a regional conference that would be co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow.

But these efforts have reached an impasse with Israel demanding a ceremonial conference to break up into direct talks with the Arabs and Syria, leading the Arab party, with calls for a major U.N. role and a conference that would reconvene regularly.

"I hope that the whole world will push with all the diplomatic vigor it has in order to make Israel join the peace process.

"I really hope that any negative answer or rumours of negative answers will not be the final word coming from Israel," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Bush has proposed in letters to the leaders of Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Syria that the United Nations have a silent observer role in any peace conference and that the forum could be reconvened in six months to assess progress.

Mr. Musa, whose country is the only Arab state to have a peace treaty with Israel, said the chances of seeing the peace process take shape were "50-50."

He also called for improved ties between Arab neighbours.

"I am not in favour of slogans, or auctions or in favour of just turning the page and of Arabs kissing each other as usual and saying 'all right, let us forget.'"

"We must not forget. We will have to base our future relations on international legitimacy and interest. Both of them," said the career diplomat who has also represented Egypt at the United Nations.

Turning to the post-war situation in the Gulf, namely Kuwait, he said it was up to regional states to decide future security arrangements and whether Kuwait should stock U.S. weapons.

But he said Egypt would never allow the United States to stockpile weapons on its territory. "Nobody has ever asked us such a thing and we will never accept it," he said.

Official Refutes AL-SAFIR on Saudi Ties

NC2106150991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—A high-ranking Egyptian information source has refuted the allegations contained in recent analyses and reports carried by the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR about the state of Egyptian-Saudi relations and the Saudi and Kuwaiti moves that prompted the withdrawal of the Egyptian troops from the Gulf.

In a statement to MENA, the source said the statements the Lebanese paper attributed to President Husni Mubarak and other high-ranking members of the Egyptian political leadership were complete fabrications, while its reports on the state of Egyptian-Saudi relations were totally unfounded.

The source added that the Lebanese paper has a habit of attributing such fabrications to senior Egyptian officials and what it calls informed sources. He said that the

Egyptian political leadership has never made any statements to this effect to this or any other paper and that these claims are intended to mislead the public.

The source praised the distinguished relations between Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as well as the mutual respect existing between the leaders of the two fraternal states.

Iranian Charge Views Ties With Arab Countries

NC2106085891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Cairo 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi stressed that Egyptian-Iranian relations are improving very quickly and expressed optimism about restoring full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In an interview with ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine to be published on Monday, the Iranian diplomat said: We want to look forward, and we have agreed not to look backward, to open a new page in the two countries' relations. He noted that Egyptian-Iranian contacts are under way to resolve the existing problems between the two countries. He also stressed that his country's relations with the Arab countries will witness a new "unblemished" page.

Regarding Iran's role in security arrangements in the Gulf, 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi stressed this role's importance. He said there are constant Iranian contacts with the Gulf countries on the final concept of these arrangements. He added that he expects these contacts to lead to positive results, particularly in light of the tangible progress in Iran's relations with the Gulf countries.

On Iranian-Iraqi relations, the Iraninan charge said his country welcomes the development of bilateral relations with Iraq, but is not looking for achieving personal gains or aims from this. He added: We are content with retrieving our legitimate rights.

He noted in this respect that Iran was among the countries that quickly rejected the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said: The Iraqi regime bargained with us and offered us many inducements, but we always told them that Kuwait is a sovereign country and not a part of Iraq as they claim.

The Iranian charge revealed the contents of two messages that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had sent to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said the first message was "a strange one" sent before his invasion of Kuwait in which he proposed to the Iranian president the demarcation of borders, saying that Iraq's land borders are 1,000 km and maritime borders 700 km. Mohammadi added that this meant these borders extend to the United Arab Emirates and the Hormuz Straits. He said: We realized Saddam Husayn's ambitions in the entire Gulf.

He said the second message was sent after the invasion of Kuwait, in which he called on the Iranian president to resolve the disputes between the two sides and to coordinate their stands against Israel and the United States. But the Iranian president replied: Get out of Kuwait first, and then we start the understanding.

Regarding the Iraqi planes that fled to Iran during the Gulf war, the Iranian charge stressed that his country will not keep these planes as part of war compensations, but he explained that Iran is determined to demand from Iraq to pay these compensations in accordance with UN estimates.

On reports that Iran is supporting certain religious groups in the Arab world, 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi stressed that his country rejects all forms of terrorism and has never been involved in supporting any terrorist group anywhere. He added that Iran does not stoop to this level.

Replying to a question on the agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia about allowing Iranians to perform pilgrimage rites this year, the Iranian diplomat said: There will be no problems, God willing. He said there is an agreement between the two sides on regulating this issue.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, he said this concerns all Muslims, not just the Arabs.

'Ali Asghar Mohammadi denied any contacts between Israel and Iran on the immigration of Iran's Jews. He stressed that the 150,000 Jews in Iran are enjoying their religious and social rights.

On Egyptian Role in Gulf Security

NC2406075991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Hanan al-Badri]

[Text] Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Cairo 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi has welcomed Egyptian and Syrian participation in the security arrangements in the Gulf. In a statement to Al-WAFD yesterday, Mohammadi voiced Iran's support for the establishment of a stable security order in the Gulf region through the cooperation of the Gulf Cooperation Council's six member states, Iran, and Iraq. Mohammadi demanded that Iraq be excluded from participating in the region's securirty arrangements until Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime is replaced.

Country To Remain 'Tolerant' of 'Peaceful' Iraq

NC2406093991 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Jun 91 p 7

[Editorial "Return to Right"]

[Text] Iraq has recently declared that it will extend the deadline for applications from companies that will take part in the reconstruction of Iraq to give Egyptian companies the opportunity to participate in the rebuilding. Iraq earlier announced it will repay an estimated $2 billion in compensation to Egyptian workers and companies when the ban on Iraqi oil exports is

lifted. These developments indicate that the ruling regime in Baghdad has begun to return to the correct path. In the wake of the serious events and horrors it encountered because of its policies and miscalculations—and after it realized Egypt's principled position, virtue, pride, and freedom from vindictiveness and gloating—Iraq has begun to realize the extent of the mistakes it made when it attacked Egypt and its leadership and harmed and severed relations with it.

Although this realization is belated, Egypt will remain tolerant. Egypt is the guarantor and protector of Arab legitimacy, whether any Arab leader likes it. If the Iraqi regime proves its good intentions, Cairo, which rejected the partition of Iraq and put forward the plan for eliminating mass-destruction weapons in all the region's countries, primarily Israel—instead of disarming Iraq alone—Cairo, the Arab heart and impregnable bastion, is more tolerant than anyone can imagine. Egypt will contribute to rebuilding and supporting a peaceful Iraq that respects its neighbors and their rights and works to achieve economic development for the Iraqi people. Iraq has all the necessary elements to achieve a giant takeoff in its economy, despite the enormous destruction it suffered as a result of the Gulf war.

Columnist Derides Cheney on Israeli Nuclear Arms

NC1706122791 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 12 Jun 91 p17

[Mamduh Lutfi column: "Cheney's Joke!"]

[Excerpts] It seems that U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney knows the Egyptian people love a good laugh, and so, to be polite, he decided not to leave Cairo without trying to make a joke.

During his visit to Cairo last week, Cheney said: As far as I know, Israel has never acknowledged that it has nuclear weapons.

Cheney thus toed the consistent U.S. line of not recognizing that Israel possesses nuclear weapons and of intimating that it does not have such weapons.

It seems that the U.S. defense secretary is a very humble man. He does not want us to think that the United States is a superpower. He does not want us to be deceived by reports about the capabilities of U.S. satellites and its eavesdropping and other espionage devices which can hear leaves rustling on a tree and photograph a child in its mother's womb. Cheney does not want us not to exaggerate the capabilities of the Central Intelligence Agency or to believe the successive reports it has issued since the sixties on Israel's nuclear capabilities. Israel is not a nuclear power in any way!

We wish we could believe Cheney and have confidence in his words. What can we do, however, when all logic and evidence point in another direction? [passage omitted]

What can Cheney say in response to the statement by former Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who told a lecture at Haifa University last week that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction, capable of obliterating any state?

Israel was the first state to introduce nuclear wapons to the Middle East and it remains the only nuclear power in the region. Western reports indicate that Israel has between 100 and 200 nuclear weapons. Washington maintains silence and professes ignorance over Israel's nuclear arsenal at the same time that it raises a hue and cry over any Arab effort—mere efforts, mind you—to acquire advanced technology. Cheney tried to make a joke, but no one found it very funny.

Comment on Mubarak's London Newspaper Interview

PM2106114491 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 Jun 91 p1

['Abd al-Bari 'Atwan article: "That Is Not the Way, President Mubarak"]

[Text] As international pressure on Israel mounts and as the U.S. Administration directs all its criticism at Yitzhaq Shamir's government, accusing it of obstructing peace efforts in the region, Britain's FINANCIAL TIMES yesterday attributed to President Husni Mubarak some harsh and unjustifed statements against the Palestinian people's rights, the PLO, and the Palestinian leadership, particularly where he said that he would not meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in response to Egyptian public opinion. In the same interview, and without mentioning the Egyptian public's opinion and wishes, he said that he would not hesitate to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at any time if it could help and enhance the peace process.

At first glance, we doubt whether President Mubarak actually made such statements and whether the Egyptian public expressed itself to the president in such terms. Over past decades and since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict we have neither heard of nor read about any Egyptian referendum resulting in a request to the Egyptian president not to meet with any particular Arab leader or in a call for a meeting with Israeli leaders, let alone Shamir, the notorious terrorist whose hands are stained with the blood of the Egyptian and Palestinian people.

'Arafat cannot possibly be worse than Shamir for the Egyptian brothers, who made considerable generous sacrifices in four wars against the Israeli enemy and who, we know, would not hesitate to do so in future wars to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

Furthermore, 'Arafat has never occupied Egyptian territory and never killed a single Egyptian. His aircraft did not bomb Bahr al-Baqar and its schools, to warrant a call by the faithful Egyptian people for President Mubarak or any other leader not to meet with him. We would not be departing from the truth if we said that any referendum in Egypt would place the Palestinian people and their leadership far above various other Arab leaders, including those closest to

President Mubarak's heart at present, not to mention foreign leaders or Yitzhaq Shamir.

It is sad indeed that such statements were attributed to the Egyptian president without any denial and published on the front page of AL-AHRAM at a time when the Egyptian Government and its media were emphasizing that they were endeavoring to boost the peace process and secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

If the president of the largest Arab and Islamic state has chosen this particular time—when Washington is looking for an alternative to the PLO and for ways to obliterate the Palestinian people's political identity—to declare that he would not meet with a president who enjoys the support of the vast majority of the Palestinian people, what, then, is there left for Yitzhaq Shamir, Ari'el Sharon, or any other Zionist leader to say?

We have long sung the praises of Egyptian democracy and commended the political freedom enjoyed by the brother Egyptians under President Mubarak's reign. We therefore have every right to feel disappointed when President Mubarak ignores the Palestinian people's right to choose and rally around their own leadership, particularly since his disagreement with that leadership is not a result of any insult to the Egyptian people or their government, but a disagreement over the Gulf war. At least half the Arab states took the same position as the PLO on that war. Will the Egyptian president boycott the leaders of Yemen, Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, and Tunisia, or will he only boycott the Palestinian leadership because it is the weaker link and because it represents homeless people with no land whose legitimate rights have been usurped—people who turn to their brothers, especially in Egypt, to help them regain these rights?

President Mubarak is known to get very angry when an Arab leader or a Palestinian leader tries to differentiate between the Egyptian people and their president, and to unleash his Egyptian press to devour that leader for committing such a sin. We wish he would bear that particular point in mind when he talks about boycotting the Palestinian leadership which has been elected according to Palestinian democratic rules. It is not an imposed leadership that inherited power or secured it by means of tanks and at gunpoint.

We do not wish to go any further into this matter, and we repeat that we hope that President Mubarak's statements were distorted, and would like to hear this from him. If these hopes are dashed, then perhaps he could tell us how he ascertained that the fraternal Egyptian people would not want him to meet with the Palestinian leader but would bless his meetings with all other leaders, and especially Yitzhaq Shamir. Perhaps we would then be able to identify a hitherto unknown power in the Arab world known as public opinion.

Minister Returns From Economic Tour

NC2306090991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, returned to Cairo early this morning after a tour of several European countries, Canada, and the United States.

Speaking after his arrival, Dr. Markramallah said the main goal of the Egyptian delegation's visit was to present elements of the Egyptian economic reform program, which had been approved by the IMF and the World Bank, and to show its comprehensiveness and importance for Egypt.

He added that an international advisory committee will meet in Paris between 8 and 10 July to discuss the economic reform porgram and determine the volume of aid, loans, and grants to be extended to Egypt to support the program and accelerate its application. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sudan's Salih

LD1906090191 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister in sister Sudan who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to lead the delegation of sister Sudan to the first meeting of ministerial body for Libyan-Arab-Sudanese economic integration. The audience was attended by the brother secretary of the General Peoples's Committee and the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau and brother 'Ali Sahlul, foreign minister of sister Sudan.

Libya-Sudan Integration Committee Meets

LD1906174391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Surt, 19 Jun (JANA)—The first meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Libyan Arab-Sudanese Integration began in the city of Surt this afternoon. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and [Sudanese] General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and the delegation accompanying him. Also present were the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the secretaries of the People's Committees for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation and the Economy; the secretary in charge of affairs of integration with Sudan; and the brothers Ahmad 'Ali Qunayf, minister of agriculture and natural resources; 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning; Ahmad

Mahmud Hasan, minister of justice and attorney general; al-Tayyib Ibrahim Khayr, minister of presidential affairs; 'Ali Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim, adviser to the minister of transport and communications; Faruq al-Bishra, secretary general of Libyan Arab-Sudanese integration; (Musa Abu-Friyuh), assistant secretary general of Libyan Arab-Sudanese integration; the brother secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum and the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

The secretary of the General People's Committee reviewed some clauses of the text of the Declaration of Integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Sudan, indicating in this respect that integration must take place in all fields as a step toward comprehensive unity. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the Declaration of Integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan was binding in both countries in order to fulfill its objectives by unified action in the political and economic domains, as well as in the fields of education, culture, legislation, social affairs, defense, and security. This requires an extraordinary effort and a program of action between the executive quarters.

He stressed the need for arriving at joint decisions defining economic data, the domains of work [words indistinct] and human resources in the two countries. The brother secretary underlined the importance of programs that lead to positive results. He said: Integration, as we understand it, means arriving at joint convictions and decisions and immediately carrying them out, and [word indistinct] prepared to lay down practical programs in order to set up a common market, affirm pan-Arabism, remove barriers, and make final resolutions about any remarks made, and turn them into practical decisions. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih delivered a speech in which he started by conveying the greetings and esteem of Brother 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and the Arab people in Sudan to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people, hailing the role played by the brother leader of the revolution toward the realization of the hopes and aspirations of the Arab nation for comprehensive unity.

Brother al-Zubayr also expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the sons of the Arab people in Sudan to the brother leader for his political and economic support and backing to the Sudanese revolution, which enabled it to continue achieving its goals. He added: We hope that the series of meetings between the economic sectors will enable us to make a big serious step toward the definite realization of some economic integration. We declare that we welcome any joint investment in these fields, and we wish to reach a joint formula that would help agricultural investment make positive steps toward achieving self-sufficiency in grains and meats in the two countries. [passage omitted]

He then hailed the outstanding victory achieved by the Ethiopian revolution over the regime of Mengistu, the agent of Zionism and imperialism; adding that his departure constituted a new turning point in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. He also praised the Chadian revolution under the leadership of Idriss Deby, stressing that Sudan and the Great Jamahiriyah were both endeavoring toward serious (?cooperation) with Chad until it completes its march for construction and progress. [passage omitted]

Integration Documents Signed

LD2006162391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Surta, 19 Jun (JANA)—During the first meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Libyan Arab-Sudanese Integration held this afternoon in the municipality of Surta, an agreement on the movement, residence, work, and ownership for the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and sister Sudan was signed. The two sides also signed the internal resolution of the Ministerial Committee for Libyan-Sudanese Integration and exchanged documents ratifying the agreements signed by the two countries in the years 1990 and 1991 after they were approved by the Basic People's Congresses in the Great Jamahiriyah and the appropriate Sudanese institutions.

These documents and agreements were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee; Brother al-Zubayr Muhamad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council; and the ministers from sister Sudan. [passage omitted]

People's Congress Greets New Ethiopian Leader

LD2206100191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpts] At the end of the sittings of its regular session this year, the General People's Congress addressed a cable to Mr. Meles Zenawi, leader of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Front and interim president of Ethiopia. Here is its text:

Mr. Meles Zenawi, chairman of the Ethiopian people's Revolutionary Front and interim president of Ethiopia: Greetings of the revolution to the Arab people's revolutionary brothers of Ethiopia accompanied by warm congratulations for the important victory you achieved by your revolution against the forces of reaction, hirelings, and injustice. [passage omitted]

As we congratulate you for your victory over the fascist gang of the Mengistu regime, we congratulate ourselves for your return to your Arab nation from which you were isolated because of the Jewish ruling family, which sat on the throne in your country, falsified the history of your Arab people, and blurred its pan-Arab identity in order to remain in power. The Mengistu regime followed its policy in an exposed attempt to make him an emperor. [passage omitted]

Your Arab people—which was formed from the Arab tribes of Himyar, Habashat, Banu Amir, Afar, and Isa, who inhabited this country for ages—must return to its nation and its regional organization, the Arab League.

We are pleased to inform you that the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah will exert an effective effort so that the Arab League will shoulder its duties toward your country in order for you to enjoy your natural presence within its fold and in order for your country to occupy its seat among its sister countries.

May it be the end of the sorrows, estrangement, and falsification that were practiced against pan-Arabism in this important part of the body of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD1806183191 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui arrived in our country this afternoon at the head of an important delegation comprising in particular Mohamed Ghannouchi, finance minister; Taufik Cheikhrouhou, vocational training and employment minister; Hamadi Khouini, secretary of state to the foreign minister in charge of Arab Maghreb Union affairs; and Rafik Belhaj Kacem, secretary of state to the interior Minister. The Tunisian prime minister was received at Rabat-Sale airport by the prime minister, Dr Azzedine Laraki. [passage omitted]

In the airport lounge, Dr Hamed Karoui made the following statement to the radio:

[Begin Karoui recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am glad to meet the brothers again, especially my brother and friend, His Excellency Dr Azzedine Laraki, the prime minister; my colleague as a doctor and as a prime minister. I am happy with this meeting on this territory, the territory of the sister kingdom of morocco, which is tied to Tunisia with bonds of brotherhood, love, a common ancient history and the unity of destiny—the Maghreb destiny.

I have come carrying a message of brotherhood and esteem from His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the brother His Majesty King Hassan II. We all know in Tunisia the role of His Majesty King Hassan II in establishing the modern renaissance in Morocco and his majesty's efforts on the Arab and international scenes.

As a matter of fact, my visit comes within the framework of the proceedings of the mixed Moroccan-Tunisian Grand Committee, which are liable to give new momentum to Moroccan-Tunisian cooperation in all fields.

This is an occasion for dialogue and consultation with brothers, especially His Excellency the prime minister, over all issues of common interest and for seeking ways and means for giving new momentum to cooperation and consolidating the notable cooperation between our two countries and peoples under the guidance of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and His Majesty King Hassan II.

Besides bilateral action, no doubt [words indistinct] it has also convinced us that the banner of the Arab Maghreb Union is necessary for our peoples and that it is the only guarantee for the future and progress of the Maghreban peoples. [passage omitted]

I am all optimism and hope that this meeting and this session will produce very positive results. Thank you. [end recording]

Cooperation Talks Begin

LD1906201191 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] An expanded working session between the Moroccan and Tunisian delegations began in Rabat this morning under the joint chairmanship of Moroccan Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki and Tunisian Prime Minister Dr Hamed Karoui, within the framework of the supreme Moroccan-Tunisian joint committee.

At the start of the session, Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki spoke about the strong ties between Morocco and Tunisia under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II and President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. He stressed that the visit by Tunisian Prime Minister Dr Hamed Karoui is taking place under special circumstances characterized by a special regional and international climate in which there is a need to strengthen bilateral relations and to set up, in the quickest possible time, a unified Arab Maghreb able to face the challenges imposed by other groupings and blocs.

Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki said that the time has come to intensify efforts in the Arab world to face the great issues, foremost among which is the issue of Palestine, and to confront the economic and political issues. He stressed that Morocco and Tunisia are proceeding along the path of exemplary and concrete cooperation with firm steps, which makes relations between the two sisterly countries a cornerstone of the greater Arab Maghreb.

After that, the Tunisian prime minister, Dr Hamed Karoui, spoke about the distinguished relations linking Morocco and Tunisia. He said that his visit to Morocco provides an opportunity to assess bilateral relations and to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, with a view to providing freedom of movement and investment for the citizens of the two countries. the Tunisian prime minister stressed that in addition to the existing cooperation between Morocco and Tunisia in all spheres, the initiative remains for the businessmen of the two countries to establish contacts with each other within the framework laid down by the two countries.

After touching on the political will which led to the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union in a world of political and economic blocs, Dr Hamed Karoui stressed that relations between Morocco and Tunisia have always been, and will always be, a cornerstone for the building of the greater Arab Maghreb Union.

Concerning the Arab region, the Tunisian prime minister spoke about the great challenges facing the Arab homeland including, in particular, the issue of Palestine. He dealt with the efforts being made by the Maghreban states in this context, especially the efforts being made by His Majesty King Hassan II as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and by Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali.

During the expanded working session, Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki and his Tunisian counterpart, Dr Hamed Karoui, made a telephone call to Algerian Prime Minister Sid'Ahmed Ghozali congratulating him and expressing their hopes for the confidence placed in him by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid when he appointed him as head of the Algerian Government. They affirmed their confidence in the future of the Arab Maghreb.

The supreme Moroccan-Tunisian joint committee was attended by members of the ministerial delegation accompanying the Tunisian prime minister, members of His Majesty's government, Morocco's ambassador in Tunisia, and Tunisia's ambassador in Morocco.

Talks, Dinner Speeches Reported

LD2006180591 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki and his Tunisian counterpart Hamid Karoui have signed the minutes of the work of the third session of the grand Moroccan-Tunisian joint commission in the presence of the delegations of the two countries. The work of this session, which ended today, was crowned by the signing of additional minutes of the trade and customs agreement between the two countries, a cooperation agreement relating to vocational training, a veterinary medicine cooperation agreement, and program for cooperation in education, cultural affairs, and information.

The two countries agreed to extend the validity of the residence cards of their citizens from two to 10 years. They also agreed on the strengthening of cooperation and the coordination of their efforts to improve residence conditions for their expatriate communities. They also discussed bilateral relations, Maghreb relations, and the Arab, African, and international situation. They recorded with satisfaction the fact that the two countries' views on the issues concerned are identical and agreed to continue consultations and coordination of stances regarding these. The two countries praised the results of the work of the grand joint commission and reaffirmed their intention to give a new impetus to economic, cultural, and social cooperation. This will facilitate the strengthening of the ties of fraternity and solidarity between the two countries and contribute to the speeding up of the completion of the construction of the Arab Maghreb Union, which constitutes a vital and strategic necessity in light of the current international circumstances and changes.

Prime Minister Dr. Laraki gave a dinner banquet this evening in honor of Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Karoui and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted] At the start of the banquet Prime Minister Laraki spoke, stressing that the third session of the grand Moroccan-Tunisian joint commission was a good opportunity to examine ways of consolidating ties between the two countries in strengtheing bilateral realtions and facilitating the construction of the great Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted] Dr Laraki recalled Morocco's support for and continuing solidarity with the Palestinian people and its absolute support for the PLO and the intifadah, and emphasized that Tunisia and Moroccoa have always pursued a policy aimed at the strengthening of relations with sister African states in all fields. [passage omitted]

Dr. Karoui then took the floor and spoke on the fraternal ties which have brought the peoples of the two countries together throughout the ages. These ties are embodied in the sincere political will which spurs His Majesty King Hassan II and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to lift relations to the level of the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries to achieve comprehensive development. [passage omitted]

Malian President Arrives in Rabat

LD2006221991 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure arrived in Rabat this morning on a working and friendship visit to Morocco. He was greeted at Rabat-Sale Airport, where he was saluted by a formation of the Light Brigade of Security, by Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki; Health Minister Tayeb Bencheikh; Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Omar Benchemsi, governor of Rabat and Sale; the Malian ambassador in Rabat; and other personalities.

In the VIP lounge, the Malian president made a statement to the press in which he praised the excellent relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Mali. He said that his current visit forms part of the consoldiation of the ties of cooperation between the two countries. He also indicated that during this visit he will explain the events which took place in Mali last March. It is worth mentioning that the Malian president is accompanied by an important ministerial delegation, including the foreign minister, the minister of communications and culture, and the minister delegate in charge of tourism and handicraft.

Received by King Hassan

LD2106135791 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received this morning at the royal court Lieutenant Colonel Ambadou Toumani Toure, chairman of the Transitional Committee for the People's Salvation and president of the Malian state. His Majesty the king held tete-a-tete talks with his guest.

Ends Two-Day Visit

LD2206130791 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Amadou Toumani Toure, the Malian head of state, has concluded his two-day working and friendship visit to Morocco, during which he led an important ministerial delegation.

The Malian head of state arrived in Rabat on Thursday. He was received by Moroccan King Hassan II. Their talks dealt with topics of common interest.

Sudan

'Strict Security Measures' in Khartoum

NC2306082791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0748 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jun (MENA)—The National Salvation government in Sudan has decided to cancel the military parade and popular march that were scheduled to be held next Sunday [30 June] to mark the second anniversary of the salvation revolution. The celebrations will be limited to the political speech that Revolution Command Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir will deliver on Saturday [29 Jun].

A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir will announce in his speech the start of establishing a new political system in the country, "the people's congresses system," which will cover all the country's nine governorates and the formation of these congresses through free elections as the first step to handing over authority to the people.

Meanwhile, political observers in the Sudanese capital have noted that strict security measures have been taken in Khartoum since Friday, the eve of 'Id al-Adha, and that the guards around the General Command of the Armed Forces and the radio and television building have been doubled.

Major General Hasan Ahmad Siddiq, commander of the Khartoum Governorate police, stated that the Interior Ministry has drawn up a tight security plan to protect important strategic places in the capital and to confront any criminal acts to damage the country.

On the other hand, following the Friday prayers that were held the day before yesterday in the mosque frequented by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of Islamic Front, for prayers, a front member distributed a pamphlet saying "the zero hour is near and the Islamic Republic will be declared in Sudan."

There also is talk in Sudanese streets about this issue, which would result in many social changes.

Since the declaration last January that Islamic sharia' will be applied in Sudan, no rules were seriously applied against any violator, while all Sudanese political prisoners were released.

Moi Says Kenya Not To Aid Sudanese Rebels

EA1406230591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Jun 91

[Text] Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi has stressed that his country will not give any facilities to the rebel movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] to allow it to launch attacks from its territories against Sudan. He has assured Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, of Kenya's keen desire for strong and firm relations with Sudan.

This was announced by Mr. Yusuf Sa'id, the RCC chairman's political adviser, who added that the Kenyan president and a number of African heads of state the RCC chairman met during the recent OAU summit meeting held in the Kenyan [as heard] capital Abuja all emphasized their countries' desire to strengthen relations with Sudan. He said that they also expressed their respect for the salvation revolution's efforts of striving to restore a lasting peace in Sudan and on the entire African continent. They also expressed their readiness to help Sudan restore peace.

Al-Bashir Denies Role in Mengistu's Ouster

EA2206150891 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Khartoum, 20 June (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, met here today Mr. 'Uthman al-Sayyid Fadl, Sudan's new ambassador to Ethiopia, on the occasion of his departure to assume his post in Addis Ababa. The meeting was attended by Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister.

The minister told SUNA that the meeting dealt with the progress of Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. He said that Lt. Gen. 'Umar stressed to him that he placed great hopes on these relations with the new government in Ethiopia and that Sudan would spare nothing in providing all assistance to the Ethiopian Government in

various fields. He said that when Sudan provided its modest assistance to Ethiopia, it would be doing so as brother to brother.

The ambassador also said that al-Bashir made clear that Sudan had no covetous ambitions in Ethiopia. He denied allegations that Sudan took part in the operations to topple former President Mengistu. [passage indistinct]

Yasir 'Arafat Stops Over, Meets Al-Bashir

EA2206151591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, stopped over at Khartoum International Airport at 1130 yesterday evening. He was received by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers; Col. Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, secretary general of the RCC; and Mr. Abu Raja'i, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Sudan.

The two presidents held discussions about the conditions in the Arab homeland. The Palestinian president left Khartoum Airport at 0100 this morning for Yemen.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Chairs Meeting on Rights Violations

LD2006201891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] In the framework of the continuing interest attached by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to human rights and basic liberties, and his constant eagerness to strengthen Tunisia's gains in this domain, his excellency called for a special meeting which he chaired this morning in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage. The meeting was attended by a number of members of the government, advisers to the president of the republic, the chairman of the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Basic Liberties, the chairman of the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights, and national public figures interested in human rights.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stressed that interest in human rights is a mark of civil behavior and civilized dealings, and is also one of the most pressing preoccupations of the national official who is zealous over his country's reputation. He also stressed that protection of human rights is among the basic constants of the policy of change followed by Tunisia. He said that this is a way of principle that must remain distant from the effects of circumstantial events which are sometimes exploited by some to harm the reputation of Tunisia, and to try to obstruct the dialogue between authority and those organizations concerned with human rights.

In light of the allegations circulating with regard to the occurence of some excesses, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali charged Mr. Rachid Driss, chairman of the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Basic Liberties, to set up a subcommittee from among this committee's members. He entrusted this commission to verify the validity of these claims, and to propose ways likely to avoid what might result from them.

The head of state recommended that the channels of contacts be further tightened between the services of the Interior Ministry and the organizations concerned with human rights, in order to resolve the issues pertaining to this subject, in the service of the course of change, and in order to protect the higher interests of Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Statement on Rights Violations

LD2006200291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] An authorized Interior Ministry source has stated the following: There has lately been much talk about alleged violations of human rights in Tunisia within the context of the investigation of the terrorist conspiracy planned by the so-called Ennahda movement. The Ministry of Interior recalls that his excellency the president, out of his eagerness for the respect of human rights and the preservation of the sanctity of the human being, in accordance with the orientations [ar tawajuhat] of the 7 November 1987 declaration, the requirements of the law, and Tunisia's attachment to international charters in this respect, gave permission for the investigation of these allegations once they had reached him.

Also, the ministry—which has never closed the doors of dialogue in the face of humanitarian organizations with regard to these and other allegations—considers their spread before the truth's being ascertained, and before hearing the point of view of the responsible quarters, as gratuitous, harming the reputation of Tunisia, and an unnecessary distortion of its image. The Ministry of Interior, while reasserting its readiness to hear out all the bodies interested in the cause of human rights and to provide them when necessary with the required information and files, wishes that all these sides would adhere to seeking and ascertaining the truth before adopting their stances on these fundamental issues.

Interior Minister Meets Human Rights Committee

LD2206103391 Tunis Tunisian Republican Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] It is worth noting that Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel met yesterday evening with members of the steering committee of the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights, led by League chairman Moncef Marzouki. The discussions covered the League's objectives and its officials and members' concurrent views with the government's directions, and the League's stands on those who conspire against the regime and civil society.

The committee members also touched on the rules governing the League's dealings and cooperation with

the authorities with a view to consecrating and strengthening human rights in Tunisia.

Mr. Abdallah Kallel, for his part, reiterated the republic president's eagerness to implement the law and protect human rights; and these are principles which officials at all levels endeavor to make specific and uphold.

The members of the League's committee also expressed some of their preoccupations, which the Interior Ministry will embark on examining before presenting its conclusions to the league. Finally, the League's members expressed the wish to visit some prisons and reeducation centers at a date to be fixed soon by the Interior Ministry.

Human Rights Leader on Detentions, Deaths

LD1906200191 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] The Tunisian League of Human Rights has protested against the ill-treatment of some fundamentalists arrested a few weeks ago within the framework of a plot. Two have died in detention. The League made public two communiques that were not broadcast in Tunisia. Its chairman, Moncef Marzouki, talked to us about the two principal points:

[Begin recording] [Marzouki] The first point is that we condemn most formally every attempt to change the regime by force, whether this emanates from the Ennahda group or any other faction. Therefore, we issued principled and very clear condemnations of a number of acts, especially in universities.

On the other hand, the second point about which we have been and remain very firm is that the maintaining of order cannot be done at the expense of the fundamental rights of human beings. However, we are well aware that these fundamental human rights, regarding disrespect of the physical integrity ofa person, or regarding what I would call illegal detention, have been violated; since we have in Tunisia a law that we fought for—namely, the law on custody—which does not authorize the police to hold people more than 10 days.

[Unidentified reporter] So far, no one among the arrested people has been charged?

[Marzouki] No, no. We have asked that all the arrested people, as decreed by custom and law, be considered innocent until proven guilty; that their trials are not by television but by independent jurisdiction; that they have the right to see their families; and that their families know where they are. The League will do everything possible so that all this is respected. And I will talk personally about this to the president of the republic, as I already did to the interior minister. We will talk about this to every single person. These fundamental rights must be absolutely and rigorously respected.

[Reporter] There have been two people killed in detention apparently.

[Marzouki] We have set up a commission of inquiry for the time being. This commission is chaired by a very well-known lawyer, Maitre Chtourou, who is member of the League's directorate. He is going to investigate these two cases, and other ones if necessary. We only have speculations for the time being, but we absolutely want light to be shed on this case and possibly other ones. [end recording]

Further to this discussion with the chairman of the Tunisian League of Human Rights, the telephone contact was interrupted several times for totally unknown reasons.

President Addresses Provincial Governors

LD1506144191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Excerpts] At noon today in the Republic Palace in Carthage President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali presided over the conclusion of the work of the provincial governors' regular conference. His excellency delivered a speech at the start of which he said that he had followed the work of this conference with high interest. [passage omitted]

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said that Tunisian society with all its groups has affirmed once again its rallying and cohesion around the principles of the change [of regime in 1987], which are aimed at the consolidation of the law, the strengthening of the democratic course, and the achievement of comprehensive development. It has expressed and continues to express its denunciation of the schemes woven lately by an extremist group which tried to harm the security, stability, and strength of the country. Today, after God has spared us the evil of this sedition, thanks to the firmness and alertness which characterized the apparatuses of the state and the institutions of civil society, you are called on to exert further efforts to consolidate the pillars of the modern and balanced civil society, by opening up to all the vigorous forces in the country, foremost the political parties, working to make them take part in the shaping of civil society and enabling them to carry out their political and social role within the shadow of complete fairness and within the framework of respecting the law and the major national choices. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Chairs Security Forces Meeting

LD2306142591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali chaired at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage this morning the meeting of the Higher Council of the internal security forces. The activities of the Ministry of Interior were reviewed during this meeting. His excellency the president expressed his appreciation for the security forces' continuous efforts and sacrifices every day for the sake of citizens' comfort, their protection of society from all sorts of excesses, their protection of national gains, and their contribution to strengthening the state of law and the state of institutions.

His excellency the president also affirmed his eagerness to develop further relations between citizens and security men upon the bases of civilized dealing and within the framework of mutual respect, in a manner that would enhance the spirit of national solidarity and bolster concord in the ranks of society.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali urged that more care should be paid to the working conditions of policemen and internal security forces cadres, and the need to improve their social conditions, affirming the need for the training and retraining of members of the internal security forces.

Authorities Break up Secret Fundamentalist Group

PM1706135591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jun 91 p4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Tunisian Security Authorities Break up Islamic Liberation Party's Secret Organization"]

[Excerpts] Tunis— Informed sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Tunisian security authorities recently broke up the secret organization of the Islamic Liberation Party [ILP], considered the most extremist and violent of the fundamentalist organizations.

It should be noted that this organization, which has branches in a large number of Arab, Islamic, and even Western states, believes in violence as a means of overthrowing existing regimes and in setting up a caliph-style Islamic state. [passage omitted]

According to the same sources, the Tunisian security authorities recently arrested some ILP members during searches last month after the announcement of what was described as the discovery of a plot by the Fundamentalist Renaissance Movement—not officially recognized—to overthrow the government and create an Islamic republic.

The sources see that plot as a part of a plan drawn up during meetings held by fundamentalist leaders on the sidelines of the recent Arab-Islamic conference in Khartoum. The plan calls for the instigation of disturbances in a number of states to pave the way for the seizure of power there.

The current number of detainees, the sources say, ranges from 200 to 300. Naturally, that does not include the leaders who are currently abroad.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the files of this case will be referred to a military tribunal as soon as the elements still hiding inside the country are apprehended. The case is going to a military court, not a civilian one, because a number of military people were involved in the plot to overthrow the government. [passage omitted]

Statement on Prime Minister's Visit to Morocco

LD2006180891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The friendly and working visit to Morocco made by Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui from 18 to 20 June concluded with a press statement saying that the Tunisian prime minister's visit was made at the invitation of the Moroccan prime minister, Dr. Azzidine Laraki, and that the visit was within the framework of the third session of the Moroccan-Tunisian Joint Commission.

During the visit, Dr. Hamed Karoui was received by King Hassan II to whom he conveyed a message of cordiality and appreciation from his brother President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia.

The two prime ministers presided over the meetings of the third session of the Moroccan-Tunisian Joint Commission. They expressed their pleasure with the cooperation between the two countries based on the directives of their leaders, King Hassan II and President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali.

The ministers accompanying the Tunisian prime minister held talks with their Moroccan counterparts on ways of improving relations between the various sectors.

The meetings of the Grand Commission's third session were crowned with the signing of the following documents: the minutes of the second session; an additional protocol to the trade and customs agreement between the two countries; a cooperation agreement in vocational training; a cooperation agreement in the field of veterinary health; an action program for cooperation in education; an action program for cooperation in cultural affairs; and an action program for cooperation in information.

The two sides agreed to extend the validity of the residence agreement for citizens of the two countries from two years to 10. They also agreed to consolidate cooperation and efforts between them for the improvement of the residence conditions of their two communities abroad.

In an atmosphere of complete understanding and fraternal constructive spirit, Azzidine Laraki and Hamed Karoui held talks which covered bilateral relations in particular, as well as Maghreb relations and Arab, African, and international conditions. They recorded with satisfaction the agreement of both countries' views on the issues discussed, and agreed to continue to hold consultations between them on these issues and to coordinate their stands toward them.

The two sides approved the results of the meetings of the Joint Commission and reiterated their determination to give a new impetus to economic, cultural, and social cooperation with a view to strengthening the ties of fraternity and solidarity between the two countries and speeding up the construction of the Arab Maghreb Union, which is a vital and strategic necessity in light of the current regional and international conditions and changes.

The two sides expressed their firm determination to continue their work to improve the Arab climate and to overcome the aftereffects of the ordeal through which the Arab world has passed, and to restore harmony and candor to the Arab nation in order to safeguard its sublime interests and to serve its causes of destiny headed by the cause of the struggling Palestinian people.

In this context, the two sides renewed their full support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah. They also reaffirmed the Palestinian people's established right to determine their fate and to retrieve all of their legitimate rights. They also stressed the need to speed up the solving of the Palestine question within the framework of a just, comprehensive Middle East settlement.

The two sides reiterated their eagerness to continue their consultations and the coordination of their stands on current international issues. They expressed their joint determination to exert all efforts to achieve an international order based on justice, equity, and true solidarity among peoples.

Western Sahara

Polisario Wants Prisoner Exchange With Morocco

LD1406222691 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jun 91

[Text] The government of the Saharan Arab Republic and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] announced in a communique published yesterday—in response to the announcement by King Hassan II granting amnesty to Saharan prisoners of war and civilian detainees—that they both note the position of the Morocco side, which comes within the peace plan of the Security Council. The Saharan government and the Polisario front say that—in order to avert any confusion or maneuver—there should be an exchange of prisoners of war between the parties in the conflict, and the release of Saharan civilian detainees by Morocco, under the control of the ad-hoc organizations and under the supervision of a special representative of the UN secretary general—as mentioned in Security Council Resolution 690 which provides for a settlement of the Western Sahara problem.

President Views Algerian Stance on Sahara

LD1506203991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Text] Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], has received a delegation of the Spanish convoy which brought humanitarian aid to the Saharaoui people.

On this occasion he held a news conference in which he talked about the UN plan for the Western Sahara. The details are in Mouloud Dabah's dispatch from Bechar:

[Dabah] The president replied to a collection of questions about the situation in the Western Sahara and King Hassan II's decision to release political prisoners.

In reply to a question about the Algerian stance toward the Saharaoui issue after the internal events witnessed in Algeria, the president said:

[Begin recording] My personal opinion is that the current crisis in Algeria will not continue for long. On the contrary, it either will end or has already ended. This is a transient issue in Algeria. Concerning the UN peace plan, I cannot see any negative effects from it. This is an international plan which specifies all the details. The international community, through the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general, has created all the structures, all the conditions, all the circumstances, and all the material and human resources to implement this plan under the specified conditions. [end recording]

[Dabah] As for the political and economic future of the SDAR after independence, Mr Mohammad Abdelaziz said that is a matter for the Saharaoui people alone. As for the Polisiaro Front, it is for a multi-party system and a market economy.

It is noteworthy that the eighth popular congress of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro will commence the day after tomorrow [17 June] in the liberated territories of the Saharaoui people.

Kuwait

Group Threatens Action on Death Sentences

NC2306172591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] A group calling itself the Islamic Liberation Front has threatened to carry out operations against Kuwaiti interests worldwide if the Kuwaiti Government does not repeal the death sentences it has passed against Palestinian and Jordanian nationals on charges of collaborating with the Iraqi forces during their occupation of Kuwait.

The front also conveyed to the AP in Amman its threat to strike at Gulf states interests if these states do not intervene immediately to stop the implementation of the Kuwaiti death sentences. The front said it can reach Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah wherever he may be.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Velayati's Visit, Meetings Relations

LD2306201891 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, met this afternoon at the hospitality palace in Mina with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Following the meeting, Mr. Velayati made a statement to SPA in which he pointed out that he met King Fahd-Bin'-Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, in Jeddah, and also during the annual reception in Mina Palace.

He said that he conveyed to King Fahd-Bin'-Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He added that During the two meetings the talks were constructive.

He continued that during our meetings I talked to His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal about bilateral relations, issues of interest to our region, and the current international situation. We emphasized the importance of continuing these meetings and talks.

The Iranian foreign minister described relations between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran as growing and progressing in an extremely positive way.

Velayati, King Fahd Meet

LD2306170491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Our country's foreign minister met and conferred with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for the second time at midday today. During this meeting, Mr. Velayati, referring to the present poor state of Baqi' cemetery, asked the King of Saudi Arabia to take proper action in looking after the cemetery, which is the venue of pilgrimage for those in love with the holy [shite] imams, peace be upon them.

King Fahd, while welcoming the proposal of our country's foreign minister, made a solemn promise to investigate this important matter and to alter the place to something worthy of Baqi'. The king of Saudi Arabia once again stressed the importance which his country attaches to the expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Velayati, Al-Faysal Discuss Expansion

NC2406060891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia met yesterday in Mina. Our correspondent reports that Saudi Foreign Minister, Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal, called on our foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, at his quarters in Mina, and while expressing his congratulations on the auspicious 'Id al-Adha, he noted the need for expanding Riyadh-Tehran relations in political and economic fields.

Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal said that Saudi Arabia wants to expand comprehensively its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He noted the desire of the other Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members to expand relations with Iran. He also added that Saudi Arabia and the other GCC members undoubtedly are thinking of the expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on a strong, stable basis.

In reply to Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal's remarks, Mr. Velayati said the Persian Gulf countries' cooperation with Iran is extremely useful to the region and the continuation of this agreement will be useful to other Islamic countries.

The Saudi and Iranian foreign ministers also discussed the situation of the Iraqi Muslims. Our foreign minister expressed concern over the critical political and economic situation involving the Iraqi Muslims, and said that the region's countries and the world should not be indifferent to the Iraqi people's fate—especially that of the Muslims in southern Iraq—and should carry out their Islamic and humanitarian duties for the Iraqi nation.

Mr. Velayati and Sa'ud al-Faysal also stressed the need for exchanging views between Riyadh and Tehran and agreed to continue their meetings at shorter intervals on a bilateral or regional level.

King Fahd's Address to Pilgrims Reported

LD2306130191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jun 91

["Address to pilgrims" by King Fahd Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud and Crown prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd—al-'Aziz al Sa'ud delivered at hajj reception in Mina on 23 June]

[Excerpts] Mina, 23 Jun (SPA)—In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Dear brothers, the system of ruling this country, which is dear to us and to every Muslim in the world, is based upon fearing God; upholding God's legal punishments and the strict adherence to the teachings of the Islamic faith, by words and deeds—upkeeping good, banning wrongdoing, and upholding justice between people trying to uphold peace; looking after our kinship; and endeavoring as much as possible to mediate between people and overcome misunderstanding with a good word, which is the best means. [passage omitted]

Brothers in Arab and Islamic countries; This year's pilgrimage comes in the wake of painful and great events which we had lived through. We see from the reality of responsibility that we shoulder and from the standpoint of trust that we have the honor to bear, particularly in the shadow of the crucial circumstances through which our Arab area and the Islamic nation are living and in the sea of perils imposed on us and the entire world by a tyrant ruler and dictator who was led by his tendencies, arrogance, and ambitions to scatter the unity of our Islamic nation, rip open its cohesion, and destroy its resources by his criminal aggression against the fraternal State of Kuwait and its occupation under cover of darkness—a crime uglier than any ever witnessed by history, as everyone knows—we say through this painful reality and out of the desire to clarify the facts to the people—as the spreaders of calumnies, the doubters, and deviationists try to distort the picture of events of the Arabian Gulf to suit their whims and aims—we say that we believe that duty makes it imperative on us to explain matters and clarify the truth along with explaining the links and stands that existed between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iraq under the shadow of its ruler Saddam Husayn with whom our relationship was based on cooperation, solidarity, and good-neighborliness ever since he came to power.

The relationship between us continued to be good until the armed conflict began between Iraq and Iran. Suddenly we found ourselves faced with the duty that is dictated by Arab and Islamic ties and imposed by neighborliness. We rose to support Iraq with all means throughout a period of eight years out of our desire to maintain the existence of a fraternal Arab country with which we are linked by ties of blood, language, religion, and joint interests, without having any specific aim against Iran.

We spared no effort to realize this duty from conviction and free will. We helped him to build an Army complete with weapons and equipment of the most modern and most powerful manner.

The war came to an end. We accepted an invitation to visit Iraq. The entire world along with us heard what Saddam, his aides, and his media said in the form of praise and appreciation for the stands of the Kingdom toward him and toward the Iraqi people.

We did not expect to be thanked for a duty that we had discharged inasmuch as we did look forward to seeing the Army of Iraq as a prop and support for its brothers in the Arab states of the gulf in time of need. However, Saddam surprised us and the whole world with something that dispersed hopes and frustrated expectations.

There were some marginal problems between Iraq and Kuwait on matters revolving around oil production and prices, as well as on border demarcation.

As soon as we realized—through our following up and our contacts with leaders of the two countries—that matters had begun to worsen between Iraq and Kuwait, we promptly tried to contain the problem by making the necessary contacts in this respect and called for the holding of urgent meetings between the concerned parties.

Matters were calmed. However, a few days afterward we heard through the media the text of the memorandum lodged by Saddam Husayn with the Arab League, and subsequently Kuwait's response. So we tried once again to eliminate misunderstanding; we tried the impossible in this respect, a matter which is public and known by everyone. [passage omitted]

However, Saddam Husayn was plotting evil, treachery, and perfidy; he had everything planned for his scheme, and in the dawn of 11 Muharram 1411—corresponding to 2 August 1991—he invaded Kuwait, eliminated it from the map, and annexed it to Iraq in a matter of a few dramatic, quick steps. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we have already pointed out in earlier speeches and on several occasions the details of the intensive efforts and continuous endeavors we made after that, with joint cooperation with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, in order to avoid bloodshed and the calamities of war. [passage omitted]

Hundreds of messages, delegations, and appeals from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union, the PRC, the UN secretary general, the Arab League, ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement succeeded one another. Each one of these was a call on Iraq's ruler to lift his aggression on Kuwait, withdraw his forces from it, and restore its

legitimacy under the leadership of the amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and his government; and consequently the withdrawal of his forces stationed near the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

And if one has to be astonished at all, he should be astonished at the assertions of a number of Arab leaders that Saddam Husayn was not given the opportunity for a diplomatic solution, intentionally ignoring the direct cause for all the catastrophes. They went ahead with their condemnation of the presence of friendly forces in the gulf region, neglecting the occupation of Kuwait and the plight of its government, people, and resources.

They began to bemoan over the Holy Places, notwithstanding the fact that they were—more than anyone else—aware of the fact that the Islamic sanctities were impregnable and well-shielded, and that there are between them and the positions of the friendly forces more than 1500 kilometers. They were asserting a call for a ban on any help from friendly forces. However, the nation's scholars as well as scholars of the Muslim faith everywhere have pointed out in an unambiguous manner the right to do so ; they also declared their support for everything that was done to repulse the criminal aggression.

And there are those who are calling for the redistribution of wealth and for equality between the rich and poor; they have, furthermore, been making insinuations and statements that the Kingdom has been negligent in this respect.

If only they had been as generous and forthcoming in their assistance as the Kingdom has been, since God has been kind to us with His Grace. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has spent billions from its income in various spheres of benevolence; it has also supported a great number of developing and fraternal countries out of a sincere and fraternal stance and without causing any harm to anyone. [passage omitted] Only God Almighty distributed wealth among people, as He says in His Holy Book: Is it they who would portion out the mercy of thy Lord? It is We who portion out between them their livelihood in the life of this world; and we raise some of them above others in ranks so that some may command work from others. But the mercy of thy Lord is better than that which they amass.

God Almighty also says: God has bestowed His gifts of sustenance more freely on some of you than on others; those more favored are not going to throw back their gifts to those whom their right hands possess, so as to be equal in that respect. Will they then deny the favors of God?

If what some people have called for is in the teachings of the Islamic Shari'a, the Kingdom has fulfilled this aspect several times, as much as what came in the Islamic texts; and if what is meant is solidarity, mutual assistance, helping the bereft, and assisting the one who is grieved, the Kingdom has also fulfilled this aspect on the best and most complete levels.

If what is meant, however, is other than that, than it is a response to its sources; we do not attach any importance to it, and we have been contented with the peace of mind in what we carry out. We have heard of the one who does not want to recognize the support and backing that the Kingdom presented to his country. [passage omitted] We praise God Almighty for His help and guidance to our efforts to make His religion and word prevail by liberating Kuwait from the claws of injustice and aggression, restoring legitimacy led by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and restoring the people of Kuwait to their homeland.

We again salute and welcome you as God's honored guests. We hope to see you again in the coming years when, God willing, victory will have been achieved for our Islamic and Arab causes, with the cause of the fraternal Palestinian people at their forefront, when they return to their homeland and fulfill their legitimate rights, stemming from UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

We are looking forward with great hopes for a solution to the just Afghan cause, which wouled enable the Afghan Mujahidin to fulfill all their rights and their self-determination.

We hope that the Lebanese people will continue their march of goodness, peace, development, and construction, which they started with the support of fraternal Syria and which stemmed from al-Ta'if resolutions to which all peace-loving nations have contributed.

We have great hopes that the international efforts aimed at establishing permanent peace and comprehensive stability in the Arab region and even in the whole world will succeed. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Party Regional Command Talks

JN2006164391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1619 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, presided over a Regional Command meeting today.

RCC, Ba'th Party Completes Study of Party Law

JN2106081991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH reports that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command have finished studying the draft law on political parties.

The paper says today that the RCC will then study the final formula of the draft law after the 'Id al-Adha holiday and refer it to the National Assembly for further study and approval. The paper explains that the new draft law on political parties will open the doors wide for the application of the principle of party pluralism in the country.

The RCC and the Regional Command began studying in December 1989 the expansion of democratic participation and entrenchment of democratic practices. The study lasted for several months, but came to a halt because of the conspiracies against Iraq and the subsequent events and the aggressive war against the homeland. The RCC and the Regional Command resumed the study recently in implementation of President Saddam Husayn's statements of 16 March of this year.

Memo to UN on U.S. Airspace Violations

JN2306095891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0911 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] New York, 23 Jun (INA)—U.S. aircraft renewed their violation of Iraqi airspace for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace on 21 and 22 June consisted of four sorties divided into two formations with speeds of 600 to 700 km per hour.

He explained that the U.S. aircraft centered their flights over al-'Imadiyah and Dahuk at low and medium altitudes.

Iraqi's permanent representative asked that this memorandum be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

Kuwaiti Plans To Build Wall Along Border Noted

JN2306101191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (INA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir has affirmed in a statement published in the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR that his government intends to build a wall along its 280-km border line with Iraq.

In his statement, the Kuwaiti minister added: The problem with Iraq lies not only with the person of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, because Saddam only represents his system of government, but also because all Iraqis are like Saddam, not to mention Iraq's human potential and weight within the regional balance of power.

Some independent Arab sources commented on these statements by saying that the Kuwaiti minister was not embarrassed to speak a fact; namely, that all Iraqis are like Saddam, and that they are all loyal to their president. The 30 states that make up the coalition are supposed to have been aware of this fact. Thus, the coalition demand that Iraqis depose their leader is not only illegal but unrealistic, the sources added.

These sources went on to say that the Kuwaiti interior minister's statements must be taken seriously [by the coalition countries] so that they will abandon attempts to present Iraq with unrealistic and illegal demands.

Foreign Minister Receives UN Inspection Team

JN2206181091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn this evening received Mr. Riveriro [name as received], head of the UN weapons inspection committee, and his delegation.

During the meeting, the means of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 687 were discussed.

Minister Responds to Fahd Message to Pilgrims

JN2406104191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Riyadh radio broadcast a message yesterday evening written in the name of King Fahd and his Crown Prince 'Abdallah addressed to pilgrims in Mecca congratulating them on having performed their pilgrimage and done their duty. The message also described Saudi Arabia's role in caring for the pilgrims and providing them with comfort.

Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, made statements in which he noted that the message, written in the name of King Fahd and his crown prince, deviated suddenly from the topic of congratulating the pilgrims. It became a long and tendentious narrative of past events and included false accusations against Iraq and its leader in a weak and failing

attempt to respond to the strong accusations made against Saudi Arabia's rulers and their efforts to ruin attempts to solve the crisis within an Arab framework, their total reliance on U.S. and Atlantic forces to strike Iraq, as well as their mortgaging the region and its resources to the United States and Western countries.

He added that the Arabs and Muslims expected—on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha—different words from those of King Fahd and Prince 'Abdallah. The well-known proverb says, however, that the suspect acts in a way that shows his guilt, because what the rulers of Saudi Arabia have done still robs them of sleep, particularly when the Muslims gather on great occasions and recall the teachings of their true religion and the values of their glorious Arab nation.

The culture and information minister said that Iraq stopped the media campaigns three months ago out of its concern to nurse the wounds and turn over the old page. However, those who betrayed [the nation] and sought help from foreigners against their nation and against the principles of the true religion are the ones who continue their transgression and who want to continue to aggravate the situation and falsify the facts. It seems that Saudi Arabia does not take higher Arab and Islamic interests into consideration even in its public positions. It only cares about what satisfies the U.S. Administration and what fits American policy, even if it contradicts the interests of the Arab and Islamic nation.

Arab League's 'Abd-al-Majid Cables Saddam

JN2206194991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha from Arab League Secretary General Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

In the cable, Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid says: On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, I am pleased to send to your excellency sincerest congratulations and best wishes on this happy occasion. I implore God Almighty to guide your steps on the path of glory and prosperity for the great Iraqi people, and that your constructive efforts to bolster and improve joint Arab action, which is based on firm foundations, will continue. May God guide your steps, grant you His victory, and keep you an asset to your country and the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH Chief Editor Said Replaced

NC2306150291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] In an obvious admission of the Iraqi media apparatus' shocking failure, the tyrant has lately taken steps which have paralyzed the media. The defeated tyrant has replaced Hamid Sa'id, chief editor of AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the ruling Ba'th Party, with Iraqi press doyen Sabah Yasin.

Observers say that this change is as good as relieving Hamid Sa'id of his post following his failure to publish a false glorification of an imaginary victory.

Saddam Said To Appoint Two Relatives Governors

NC2306150491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Tyrant Saddam Husayn has appointed Watban Ibrahim al- Tikriti, his half brother on his mother's side, as governor of Ninawah. Al-Tikriti is also an under secretary at the Foreign Ministry.

Informed sources say that the tyrant has appointed his cousin, Hashim Hasan al-Majid, brother to butcher 'Ali Hasan, as governor of al-Ta'mim.

Saddam Said Seeking Better Ties With Arab World

NC2306143491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Dictator Saddam Husayn summoned his half brother, Birzan Ibrahim, from his headquarters in Geneva about two weeks ago.

Reports indicate that Saddam wants to discuss a new plan which would call for Birzan to make extraordinary efforts in a desperate attempt to persuade Arab ambassadors in Geneva to work for the restoration of relations between their countries and the defeated regime. In return, Saddam would give false promises to change his policy toward these countries and to abandon his terrorist policies completely.

Birzan, who is still in Baghdad, has received instructions from Saddam Husayn to restore relations with the terrorist groups with whom Saddam's regime has dealt in the past. According to these instructions, Birzan is expected to make plans for these groups to liquidate elements of the Iraqi opposition.

Rebel Radio Reports 'Popular Forces' Operations

NC2406070191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0335 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] To inflict further losses on the collapsing regime's mercenaries, to destroy all its defeated Army's materiel and weapons, and to inspire our popular revolution with hope and an indomitable spirit of Islamic defiance, our revolutionaries' military units in the south have carried out widespread heroic operations against the unacceptable 'Aflaqi presence in the pure land of the south.

This came in a long news report issued by the popular forces command headquarters in the south, which we received from a special source. The report detailed some of the most important revolutionary operations in the south in June, of which the radio was not informed at the

time because of the inability to communicate with our sources after the hostile forces deployed in the area.

The operations were as follows:

1. The Martyr Abu-al-Hasan al-Maliki group of al-Hajjaj forces carried out a lightning attack on a 4th Army Corps command post [words indistinct] in al-'Amarah on 1 June. The revolutionaries killed the officer in charge, a first lieutenant, and 10 of his troops. They destroyed an (EVA) military vehicle.

2. The Martyr Abu-al-Hasan al-Maliki group attacked a center housing enemy officers in ('Umm Zu'aydah) on 1 June. Four officers—a captain, two majors, and a first lieutenant—were killed in the attack.

3. A revolutionary group of the popular forces in the south ambushed an (EVA) military vehicle carrying troops and officers on al-Nasiriyah-al-Salam road on the night of 1 June. The attack resulted in the death of two officers and seven soldiers of Saddam's criminal mercenaries.

We congratulate our brother revolutionaries. Onward to further great victories.

We will supply you with the remainder of the news report in future newscasts. The report has been sent to us by a special source who maintains contact with the headquarters of the popular forces in the south.

Tehran—Casualties in Clash Near Al-Sulaymaniyah

LD2106225191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The Iraqi regime's opponents in the north have dealt heavy damage and casualties on the Ba'thist forces in a clash near the northern Iraqi city of al-Sulaymaniyah. This clash occurred when the Ba'thist troops tried to advance into al-Sulaymaniyah province.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi immigrant who has just come to the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the Ba'th army had attacked al- Jumhiriyah hospital in ('Babol-Zabir) region on the pretext of arresting the Iraqi mujahidin there and had taken away a number of the patients. He said that the Ba'thists also beat several doctors and employees of the hospital.

Opposition on Repression of Military, Civilians

NC2206151391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The current anarchy in Iraq is similar to a state of civil disobedience. Private sources say that government departments, public agencies, and ruling party organizations are completely paralyzed because they failed to obey the orders of tyrant Saddam Husayn's authorities.

The sources added that all sectors of the Army are unstable, and tight security procedures have been introduced to monitor the movement of officers and enlisted men. Arbitrary transfers are continuing among those Army commanders who have openly rejected the dictatorial regime's repressive measures. The sources said that over the past few days Saddam Husayn launched an unprecedented campaign of executions and arrests against civilians and the military. So far it has affected approximately 500 officers and enlisted men along with thousands of civilians, especially [words indistinct] who have begun fleeing to neighboring countries.

For the past four months, the tyrant Saddam Husayn has been criticizing government and party officials in the southern governorates for their failure to make any progress in stopping the popular uprising before it threatens to overthrow his regime.

The sources also revealed that the dictator Saddam Husayn has recently arrested the director of military intelligence on charges of failing to cooperate with intelligence authorities and encouraging officers and enlisted men to disobey the orders of the intelligence department, the country's highest authority at that time.

The sources noted that the Army and police authorities on the Iraqi-Jordanian border are facilitating their effort to leave Iraq, in contravention of the intelligence department's orders.

Saddam Executes Officers; Said 'Living in Fear'

NC2206155691 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn has executed Staff Colonel Faysal 'Abd-Ibrahim al-Hardan and many other officers after finding them guilty of plotting to overthrow his regime. Informed sources have reported that the tyrant is living in fear and has lost confidence in even his closest associates.

Barzani, Saddam Said Agreed on 'Every Problem'

NC2406071991 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 20 Jun 91 p 14

[Seyhmus Cakan report: "Barzani: We Have Agreed With Saddam Husayn"]

[Text] Sardaf, (MILLIYET NEWS AGENCY)—Although Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani, who has been in Turkey for some time now, has said that several debatable issues exist between the Kurds and the Iraqi Administration, Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], has disclosed that he has reached agreement with Saddam Husayn on every problem.

We met with Mas'ud Barzani in his headquarters in Sardaf, which is one of the most beautiful summer resorts in northern Iraq. He said he held positive talks in an atmosphere of understanding with the Iraqi Administration in Baghdad and denied reports that he was detained by Iraqi officials. Barzani asserted: "We have definitely not established the geographic borders of an autonomous region. We have agreed that Iraq is a whole

entity. Agreement has been reached on the alliance. In fact, an agreement has been reached on every problem with the Iraqi Government. What is left to be done is the formality of signing documents. No war will be fought in the future. Everyone will be free to travel wherever he wishes to go in Iraq."

Karkuk's Situation

Noting that a problem does not exist between the Kurds and the Iraqi Government on the question of Karkuk, Barzani said: "We have agreed with Saddam Husayn that Karkuk is jointly owned by the people of Iraq. The economic resources in Karkuk will be jointly used."

Barzani stressed that maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity was very important for the Kurds. He asserted: "An Iraq is being created in which the Kurds, Arabs, and the Turkomans will live as brothers in peace and security. Let this development be auspicious for our people. The oil resources, which are very important for Iraq's economy, will be jointly owned by the people in Iraq. We shall sell the oil to strengthen Iraq's economy. The outcome has been satisfactory."

Barzani said he sent a telegram to Jalal Talabani, who is in Turkey, to inform him of the agreement he has reached with the Iraqi Administration. He noted: "I have asked him to return to Iraq as soon as possible to join our effort to establish peace."

Barzani described President Turgut Ozal as a "successful politician." Noting that a dialogue does not exist between the DPK and the Workers Party of Kurdistan, he said that he may return to Baghdad in two or three days.

Barzani Congratulates Saddam on 'Id al-Adha

JN2306124091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jun 91

["Text" of cable of congratulations from the "Democratic Front of Kurdistan delegation" to President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency esteemed leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and keep you: On the occasion of the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, it pleases us to extend to your excellency on behalf of the Democratic Front of Kurdistan, brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani, and our negotiating delegation our heartfelt appreciation and sentiments of affection and respect. We beseech Almighty God to return this occasion to you with pride and blessings, and to the masses of our great Iraqi people with felicity and happiness, at a time when our capable people, be they glorious Arabs or zealous Kurds, are facing world aggression and its effects, thus displaying the most sublime qualities of heroism and sacrifice. We hope that we, under your unique leadership, will begin a great phase in our militant lives by rebuilding what the claws of the aggression have destroyed, entrenching the foundations of national unity, and consecrating Arab-Kurdish brotherhood by realizing and developing the 11 March statement and building up the foundations of the new democratic life.

May God preserve you for us, O you dear and beloved one, as a leader who expresses our hopes and aspirations for brotherhood and development through a brotherhood baptized by manliness, blood, and loyalty. May you live long as an esteemed and respected leader for a people with limitless sacrifices. May God grant you success. We wish you happy returns of the occasion.

[Signed] For the Democratic Front of Kurdistan delegation, Dr. (?Ruze Nurichawi); [name indistinct]; Azad Muhammad Najib (?al- Barward).

Talabani's Support of Autonomy Agreement Reported

JN2206191691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun 91—Informed Kurdish sources have said that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] party, led by Jalal Talabani, yesterday supported the draft agreement that has been reached on autonomy.

Radio Amman, which reported the news, cited the sources as saying that the PUK has agreed to the draft agreement reached recently in Baghdad by Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

Last Sunday, Barzani stated that he reached an agreement in a second round of talks with the Iraqi Government, and that he will hold talks with other Kurdish leaders.

Kurdish Leaders Reportedly To Meet on Talks With Iraq

NC2406111791 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Manama, June 24 (AFP)—The two most prominent Kurdish leaders, Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, are to chair a meeting of the Kurdistan Front later Tuesday or Wednesday to discuss the state of autonomy negotations with the Iraqi Government, a spokesman for Mr. Talabani's group disclosed.

Yusuf Juzani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said the meeting would be held in northern Iraq and would group representatives from the eight members of the Front, including Mr. Barzani and his Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

Mr. Barzani recently left Baghdad saying an agreement on the future status of Iraqi Kurdistan, along with measures to promote democracy throughout Iraq, had already been worked out in principle with the government of President Saddam Husayn.

But Mr. Talabani has been more cautious in his assessment, warning that the talks could take more time to bear fruit.

Shiite Leader Says Uprising Continues

PM2006152191 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 91 p 4

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by 'Ali Nun in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nun] What truth is there in the reports circulating in Tehran about the Iraqi Army's preparations for an attack on the opposition in the south?

[Al-Hakim] We have reports received nearly a month ago indicating that the Iraqi regime did start preparing for a large-scale offensive on the marsh area, which has been besieged economically and militarily for the past two months. The regime has been launching air raids, using helicopters, since 26 March in a campaign against the town of al-Jabsh in the center of al-Hawr and the areas around it. This campaign has failed to achieve anything thanks to the mujahidin's strong resistance. Reports also indicate that military operations are continuing in the al-Hawr area.

[Nun] Where is the resistance targeting its operations in Iraq?

[Al-Hakim] The Iraqi map shows things clearly. The area located between al-Nasiriyah to the west and the Majnun islands to the East and between al-Basrah to the south and the al-'Amarah area to the north contains many marsh areas, the largest of which are al-Hammar to the west and Huwayzah to the east of the area. In the middle of these marsh areas are fortified areas and villages. A very large number of Iraqi tribes live there. The regime recently launched a media campaign in which the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published an editorial full of insults to the people of that area, some of whom fled when the authorities started attacking towns and killing the young men who did not join the Army in the suppression operation.

The regime, which is well-known for its oppression, used missiles, long-range guns, tanks, and helicopters—the only effective means in the al-Ahwar area, since tanks cannot move in marshes. People there are defending themselves and sometimes launch counterattacks to abort the Army's operations designed to annihilate them. They are in a position of self-defense—nothing more. [passage omitted]

[Nun] What is the number of casualties since opposition operations and the uprising started?

[Al-Hakim] Up to now there have been no accurate statistics. The area that witnessed the mass murder operations was controlled by the government, which has not provided accurate figures even on the war with the coalition states. But estimates circulated by the authorities' officials indicate that the numbers of dead has reached 400,000. Our estimates exceed this figure. Hospitals in the areas of the uprising witnessed operations of mass murder against all the wounded who were there. At al-Husayni Hospital in Karbala' some 3,000 people were killed. At the Republican Hospital in al-Najaf and at the Saddam Hospital, which the sons of the uprising have named Martyr al-Sadr Hospital, everyone there was killed and the bodies were thrown out of the windows.

Helicopters arrived in al-Najaf and their crews asked the city's sons to evacuate it because they intended to destroy it all. While tens of thousands were moving out the helicopters returned to attack them. Some estimate the number of killed at some 15,000 to 20,000.

[Nun] Is this large number of casualties the result of the uprising, or does it include those who fell during the Gulf war?

[Al-Hakim] No. When an Iraqi officer was asked about the number of war dead he said that it totaled about 100,000. He estimated the number of those who fell after the war at four times that figure. Our information indicates that the number of civilians killed as a result of Western bombardment did not exceed 3,000.

[Nun] Some believe that the uprising subsided quickly.

[Al-Hakim] The uprising has not subsided in the south. What happened at the beginning was that the people were in total control of the cities in the face of the party and police organs responsible for affairs there, in addition to the military equipment there. When the pro-Saddam Republican Guard units arrived, backed by groups of mercenaries and some hypocrites, they bombarded the cities with rockets with the aim of destroying the residential areas. The authorities are now in control of the cities but the uprising is still continuing, even in Baghdad. We have information that the city of al-Thawrah has been witnessing military operations for nearly two weeks. There is a virtual night curfew; random killings continue, especially in al-Basrah; and the situation there is similar to conditions on the fronts.

[Nun] Why has the initial sympathy with the uprising declined?

[Al-Hakim] Sympathy from whom?

[Nun] From the West with you and with the Kurds in northern Iraq! And, if you like, the political sympathy from some states. Then the Kurds entered into negotiations with Baghdad, and Jalal Talabani (secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) says that the Shiites want to establish an Islamic state and have scared Western public opinion away. What is your comment on this view, and what is your opinion of the negotiations between the Kurds and Baghdad?

[Al-Hakim] What I know is that the West did not voice any sympathy with the uprising at the beginning. In fact there was a clear U.S. position on it—a kind of accusation that the uprising was sectarian and partionist. It also leveled harsh criticism at the Kurds, regarding their movement as secessionist. It feared them. For example, the raising of the Communist Party flag in the Kurdish areas was criticized, because it aroused the West's sensitivity.

When the uprising started to assume a humanitarian dimension through the large-scale evacuation from northern and southern Iraq, sympathy was renewed in the Western world and many facts became clear—most important, that the uprising was a spontaneous people's uprising, not sectarian or partitionist. Its principal aim was to topple the dictatorship, and its watchword was to reject the foolish policies pursued by the regime in the Gulf war. At any rate, the sympathy with the uprising came late.

We hope that the Kurdish brothers will regain their legitimate political, cultural, and social rights. All these were our principal demands, and we defended them. But we believe that they are mistaken in negotiating with the regime.

They have fallen into a big trap and trick by doing so. It has nothing to offer them. For example, it is promising them reconstruction and compensation for the losses, whereas in fact it possesses nothing. In fact it is giving them a ruined country and increasing their problems. There is another issue: It is a regime condemned by the entire world and isolated both at home and abroad. It engaged in a war of annihilation against its people. To negotiate with it represents a point of weakness in the political movement demanding its rights. Therefore, we believe that these negotiations are exposed to widespread criticism among the Kurdish people. Yesterday Shaykh Muhammad Khalid Barzani, uncle of Mas'ud Barzani (leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan), came here and spoke about these negotiations in very harsh terms, emphasizing that he had advised against entering into them.

These negotiations are not in the Kurdish people's interests. They are in the regime's interests. Nevertheless, the Kurds are our brothers and we will continue to stand by them because our cause is one, and we hope that they will recognize these realities and that positions will change.

[Nun] Do you believe that there are disagreements within the Kurdish opposition with regard to the Baghdad negotiations?

[Al-Hakim] There are some disagreements over tactics. The position of some Kurdish parties is one of clear opposition to the negotiations. This applies to the Kurdish tribal chiefs, who represent the strongest and broadest sector and who launched the uprising.

[Nun] What about Ayatollah Abu-al-Qasim al-Khu'i?

[Al-Hakim] After he was assaulted by the regime and arrested with all his sons and advisers, they were moved by force to Baghdad, where they were forced to make certain statements. When conditions developed inside and outside Iraq with regard to this issue, the regime returned him with his eldest son to his home, where it put him under house arrest.

Shoval Views Settlement Issue, Aid Linkage

TA2206193691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to the United States, by Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—recorded "a few hours ago"]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Ambassador Shoval, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the foreign aid bill this week. A proposal to cut $82.5 million, which the Israeli Government has invested in the establishment of new settlements and the expansion of existing ones, from the total sum of aid was voted down. Some say the attempt to link the issue of the settlements to aid to Israel failed, but they are ignoring the fact that 44 congressmen favored the proposal. The settlements are an issue that bothers the U.S. Administration very much. How do you deal with this problem? What do you report to Jerusalem on the issue of the settlements, as it is perceived in the United States?

[Shoval] First, your facts are correct. Nevertheless, I propose that we look on the bright side. The proposed amendment was not accepted, while the aid was approved. I would not say the congressmen who voted in favor of the amendment were a homogeneous group, but they represented a specific sector of the House of Representatives which does not necessarily characterize the entire House. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that the settlements have in the last few months, or perhaps even before that, become a problem. I would say that opposition to the settlements encompasses people who are enemies of the State of Israel or are hostile to it, others who are not hostile to our country but who think that Israel has no business in the territories, and yet another group that simply does not understand the problem. There are elements inside and outside the U.S. Administration who think—and they may be justified from their point of view—that the issue of the settlements is the best means to attack Israel on other subjects.

I suppose the Israeli Government is aware of this situation and will have to deal with it, both in the context of the guarantees for loans to finance immigrant absorption—we have not yet submitted the official request—and in other questions. But, it must be clear that the issue is not the settlements, at least not as far as the U.S. Administration and certainly not as far as hostile elements are concerned, but the political future of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The Israeli Government argues that this is an issue that would be discussed when the negotiations begin.

[Ben-'Ami] The link is made by President Bush—who said as much to a group of Jewish leaders—Secretary Baker, and other U.S. elements. They say that if Israel does not change the climate or its settlement policy, it will have a hard time getting guarantees from the administration.

[Shoval] There may very well be difficulties, and I imagine we will not have an easy time getting those guarantees which, as I said before, we have not yet requested. I believe that as soon as it has all the facts, the Israeli Government will have to choose between settlements and aid. There are issues and times when governments are called upon to make tough decisions one way or another. Hypothetically speaking, from Israel's point of view, it is unhealthy to signal that on vital issues such as aid —if they are indeed vital—Israel can be brought to its knees. If for one reason or another the Israeli Government decides not to freeze settlements, it will definitely have to deal with the absorption of immigrants in other ways, and such ways exist.

I do not want to dwell on the past, but allow me to tell you that we are to blame for the fact that for many years we did nothing to solve our economic situation—and this could have been done. I know people who have cautioned about this for many years, and I am not surprised that this is the situation. However, we should not cry over spilled milk. The question now is whether we will be able to do whatever needs to be done with regard to immigrant absorption even if, for one reason or another, we are not given the aid we think we deserve from the United States. There may very well be other ways.

[Ben-'Ami] One of those ways could be to request loans from Germany. We have learned that the Germans sent a report to Washington saying that they are also giving aid to Israel contingent on the suspension of settlements. So, yet another source of aid to remedy our economy and to help immigrant absorption might be impaired because of the same issue.

[Shoval] I read about this report in the papers, but I cannot talk about the facts because I did not participate in the talks—if indeed there were such talks between Chancellor Kohl and the U.S. Administration. I must say, nevertheless, that when it comes to the Germans this outrages me. Another 1,000 years will have to pass before the Germans pay their moral and practical debt to the Jewish people. I cannot even imagine that a German statesman will dare link aid to Israel for the absorption of immigrants from the Soviet Union—which is, at least partly, a result of what the Germans did in World War II—to any political price related to issues which are the prerogative of Israel to decide whether they are vital to the country housing the survivors of the Holocaust, to its security, and so forth. If this indeed is the position of the German Government, I think the Jewish people and the enlightened world at large should voice their outrage and tell the Germans: That does it!

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, although there is agreement with your views on this particular subject, one must bear in mind that both the U.S. Administration and Germany—perhaps signalling Europe's stance—have their own views about Israel's positions and the political process. Where are we headed? Is the statement that the political process is not stuck not overly optimistic? The fact is that nothing is happening.

[Shoval] I would not be as categorical as to say that nothing is happening. The U.S. Administration is still waiting for answers. At the moment—and this could change within the next few hours—the administration is awaiting a reply from Syria, and it has not yet received an unequivocal positive response from Jordan.

The Israeli response has been discussed at length and described as negative. I would not call it negative, and I did not describe it as such in my talks with administration officials. I told them that it is a qualified positive response—a positive response which poses some questions and calls for clarifications. Israel was given certain clarifications in the meeting between Foreign Minister Levi and Secretary of State Baker which the Israeli Government will probably discuss, but there are issues on which we have not yet received clarifications.

If the process gets stuck, through no fault of ours, the Israeli Government will raise new ideas. At the end of the day, however, the process depends on the wish of our potential partners to sit with us around the negotiating table. After all, all the problems related to the process stem from one simple fact: Part of the Arab world does not want to admit to our right to exist as a sovereign state in this region, and that is why it wants to avoid direct negotiations, which is the only way in which countries can actually settle disputes.

[Ben-'Ami] Let me wind up the issue by asking you: What are the chances of Israel getting the loan guarantees?

[Shoval] Previous U.S. administrations distinguished between economic and humanitarian aid and disagreements on political issues, which also existed in the past. As on any subject, the Israeli Government must weigh the pros and cons. I think that beyond the specific political subjects, in our contacts with the Americans we should tell them the following: Gentlemen, there are thousands of Arabs living in Israel. Whatever the political arrangement may be, it is inconceivable that it should be decreed by law or a clause in an international agreement that Jews, because they are Jews, should not be allowed to live in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. This was the pre-1967 situation, but I believe we will not go back to it.

[Ben-'Ami] Ambassador Shoval, thank you very much.

Shamir Reprimands Shoval

TA2306025791 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Jun 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Drora Perel]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday reprimanded Zalman Shoval, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, and instructed him to immediately try to amend the impression left by his interview on Qol Yisra'el, according to which the Israeli Government would soon have to choose between settlements in the territories and loan guarantees for immigrant absorption.

Shamir's order came during a telephone conversation he held with Shoval, after the ambassador's statements caused displeasure and even anger in the Prime Minister's Office. Senior Likud sources asserted that Shoval's statements create the impression that the Israeli Government accepts the "linkage" between the guarantees and the settlements—this when Shamir has for the past several weeks been waging a media campaign and attempting to persuade Jewish leaders and congressmen to oppose the increasing tendency in Washington to tie together the two issues.

In the course of the telephone conversation, in which Shamir apparently was furious, Shoval explained that his remarks during the interview had been "misunderstood." Shoval asserted that he had only intended to present positions now being heard in Washington, and not to express any Israeli position on the "linkage." Shoval promised he would amend his remarks at the first opportunity. [passage omitted]

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said that the U.S. attempt to blame the hiatus in the political process on the settlements was "inconceivable," and that the clear and obvious reason for the deadlock were the extreme and rejectionist positions adopted by Arab states. The sources reiterated the Israeli Government's position that the settlements would not constitute an obstacle to political progress and added that the United States should bear in mind that Israel is only asking for loan guarantees and not for actual aid.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday refrained from any comment over Shoval's statements; however, Foreign Ministry officials pointed out that the ambassador's remarks on the need to choose between the settlements and the loan guarantees reflect numerous reports coming from the Israeli Embassy in Washington in recent weeks, noting the consolidation of a congressional majority that may accept the linkage between settlements and loan guarantees if the administration supports it. Foreign Ministry sources said that Shoval's statements embarrassed the prime minister, as they contravene his attempt to create the impression among the Israeli public that the settlements do not put immigrant absorption at risk.

The sources added that the U.S. Administration considers the prime minister's recurring statements in support of continuing the settlements to constitute a deliberate provocation. They said that U.S. officials had recently complained that the government was not willing to give them information on developments in the territories, as stipulated according to the U.S. interpretation of Foreign Minister David Levi's letter to Secretary of State Baker in October 1990.

On the other hand, both Foreign Ministry officials and sources from the Prime Minister's Office yesterday agreed that Ambassador Shoval's statements joined a long series of remarks that were termed "incautious." [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 June in a report by David Makovsky and Michal Yudelman on pages 1 and 7 notes that "Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen (Tehiya) came out strongly against the 'distorted linkage' expressed in Shoval's statement between the aid to aliya absorption and the settlements." The report adds that "Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan (Tzomet) said Israel does not need U.S. financial guarantees and should not have asked for them in the first place. 'If we organize ourselves and mobilize the public properly, we could free ourselves from the need to beg for alms and absorb aliya without advice, pressure and charity, and without harming our national dignity,' Eytan said.

["Labor Knesset faction chairman Hayim Ramon said, 'Israel will have to decide either to absorb 2 million Palestinians, or to absorb 1 million new immigrants from the Soviet Union.'"]

Shoval Rejects Link After Reprimand

TA2306064591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Excerpt] After being reprimanded by Prime Minister Shamir, Israel's ambassador to the United States Zalman Shoval agreed to grant an interview to IDF Radio. This time, Shoval said that Israel should not agree to any linkage between talks with or aid to Israel and a freeze on settlements. Our Washington correspondent Qeren Neubach reports:

[Begin recording] [Neubach] Zalman Shoval talks about cautious optimism with regard to Israel's chances of getting from the United States guarantees for loans for immigrant absorption. Shoval says that due to its openness and pluralism the U.S. Administration is persuadable, despite its differences with Israel on various issues.

Referring to the possibility that the U.S. Administration might make the granting of loan guarantees conditional on a freeze on settlement in the territories, Shoval says the Israeli Government cannot possibly forego its positions on matters of principle because of some aid issue.

[Shoval] I suppose that a settlement is not established for kicks. There are reasons behind it, including security ones. I think that presenting the question of a freeze on settlement as a precondition for negotiations or aid is tantamount to mixing apples and oranges. Israel must explain its positions and I believe there is quite a chance that the U.S. Administration and public opinion may understand our point of view.

[Neubach] Shoval added: It is inconceivable that the question of aid should in any way hinge on political issues. Linking the question of the settlements to the loan guarantees contradicts and is incompatible with the objectives of the U.S. Administration.

[Shoval] If the Arabs say as much, we understand why they say that—they say that because they want preconditions. But if U.S. elements support this view, I think this does not serve the cause of peace. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir Denies Rebuking Shoval

TA2306144991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Excerpts] I did not reprimand Ambassador Shoval. We held a discussion to clarify what he had said, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this afternoon.

On the disclosure of the special units in the territories, the prime minister said that he was not given prior information on the television broadcast. After the defense minister investigates the issue, a decision will be made on whether any damage has been caused by the broadcast.

Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports on today's cabinet meeting: [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said in the debate that the disclosure was carried out after professional elements called on him to show the public some of the things these units are capable of doing. Baraq said the report had two aims: First, to deter young people from joining the intifadah. Two, to make clear the difference between those involved in the intifadah and quiet civilians.

Following reactions by many of the ministers, Shamir called for the debate to end and said it cannot continue in the absence of the defense minister. [passage omitted]

Knesset Committee Discusses U.S. Aid Dilemma

TA2406121591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1045 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Report by Yaron Enosh]

[Text] The members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee were preoccupied with two apparently separate issues today, which were, however, interlinked by the realities of our political situation. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir began his regular monthly briefing to the committee with a report on aliyah issues, which was mainly devoted to immigration from the Soviet Union.

This part of the meeting went by with relatively few interruptions. However, when Shamir reached the political process, the Knesset members [MK's] from the opposition hastened to raise the statements made by Zalman Shoval, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, about the choice Israel has between continuing the settlements in the territories or getting the U.S. aid for immigrant absorption. Here are a few examples: Alignment MK Gad Ya'aqobi turned to the prime minister and asserted that the question was not what the ambassador had said but what was the truth—that the government's dead end policy would preclude the

absorption of the immigration wave and the economy's development, and would lead to Israel's international isolation and dash the chances for peace. MK Ya'aqobi added that the Likud's habit of burying their heads in the sand could bring about an awful disaster. And these statements were nothing compared to the remarks made by CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] MK Yosi Sarid, who told the prime minister that instead of showing his gratitude to the United States by adopting a policy of restraint [Ipuk], he had repaid them with a policy of AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee]. The Shamir government, Sarid added, has repeatedly slapped the United States and spat in its face. The U.S. Administration has pretended it was raining until now, but now for the first time the administration is calling a spade a spade.

The criticism voiced by the opposition members in the committee continued, with the prime minister staring at the participants and reacting to the attacks with the words: You all sound like a funeral dirge. You can only see everything as black. Afterward, outside, Shamir told the correspondents that there was no dilemma in the United States between extending financial aid for immigrant absorption and the establishment of settlements in the territories.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is no dilemma in the United States between aiding the immigrant absorption effort in Israel, or stopping all settlement activity in Eretz Yisra'el. In our opinion there is no such dilemma and there are many people in the United States who think the same way. The reasoning behind this thinking is very simple: the United States greatly helped Israel for many years in our struggle for the aliyah from the Soviet Union. Washington never said that it would fight for the Jews' right to leave the Soviet Union if Israel committed itself not to establish settlements, or if Israel promised to accept the division of Jerusalem. This never happened. [end recording]

Afterwards, as Shamir was going up to his office on the second floor in the building, we saw Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, asking him whether the committee session was quiet or stormy. Shamir responded to the question by waving his arm in a dismissive gesture.

Ze'evi Threatens To Quit Government Coalition

TA2306113191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The cabinet today discussed the publicity given to the activity of the special undercover units in the territories. Speaking in support of this publicity, Minister Olmert said that we should welcome the fact that the Israeli Army finally has managed to deal with localized targets without hurting large sectors of the population.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi said he has concluded that the government does not want to deal with the intifadah. That is why he will recommend to his party's executive, which is scheduled to convene tomorrow, that Moledet quit the government. Speaking to our correspondent Shlomo Raz, associates of the prime minister's downplayed Ze'evi's threat saying that he has no real reason to quit the government and that, at any event, he will not push for early elections.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew on 23 June at 1000 GMT notes that Prime Minister Shamir "sharply criticized" the remarks made by Israel's Ambassador to the United States Zalman Shoval in an interview with Qol Yisra'el yesterday, to the effect that the time will come when the Israeli Government will be called upon to choose between settlement and aid. Correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that several ministers requested holding a debate about Shoval's remarks, but the prime minister "declared the matter closed as soon as he finished what he had to say on the matter." At 1108 GMT, Kohen notes that an aide to the prime minister has categorically denied reports that Ambassador Zalman Shoval's remarks "had in any way been discussed by the cabinet."]

Shamir Comments on Holding Early Elections

TA2406104091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that he sees no reason to hold early elections at this stage. The prime minister was speaking after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports:

[Begin Shamir recording] No, I am not thinking today about calling early elections. In general I believe that elections should be held on their scheduled date, and that there must be a special reason forcing the parties in the Knesset to call elections. At this time, I do not see any call for this. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 24 June adds that "Prime Minister Shamir refused to reveal his opinion on which electoral system should be instated during the coming elections. He asserted that he would reveal his position only during the internal debates held by the Likud Knesset faction.

"Shamir also said that he found it inconceivable that the United States would not help in absorbing the immigration wave, or that it would make its assistance conditional on calling a halt to new settlements."]

Shamir Says Settlements Topic for Future Talks

TA2406042891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the issue of settlements will be raised during future peace negotiations. He said no one doubts the right of Jews to live in any part of the land of Israel, and that Arabs have a similar right. In any event, the prime minister said, there

is currently no justification for the continued controversy over settlements. The prime minister was speaking to visiting U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone.

Arens Says U.S. Should Continue Peace Efforts

AU2106143291 Paris AFP in English 1350 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Paris, June 21 (AFP)—Israel wants the United States to continue its Middle East peace efforts, despite the slow pace towards bringing about negotiations, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens said here Friday.

Mr. Arens also played down reports of friction between Israel and the United States and said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East peace initiatives are "very important.".

"The (Israeli) relationship with the U.S. has a very firm foundation," he told reporters. "Israel and the U.S. share not only common values but common interests too."

Mr. Arens, who is in Paris to visit the Le Bourget air show, is scheduled to leave for Washington later Friday. He is scheduled to have talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney while in Washington.

"We would like the U.S. to continue its (peace) efforts," Mr. Arens said. "The United States has the ability and capability to change things, at least to some extent."

Mr. Arens said "some progress" has been made through the U.S. mediation, such as Saudi Arabia's agreement to attend a peace conference as an observer.

"My impression is that the Jordanians would like to come too but are afraid of the PLO and the Syrians," he added.

Mr. Arens said that Arab leaders such as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "do not want peace with Israel."

Mr. Arens also said that Jewish settlements in the occupied territories were not "reversible" because under any peace agreement, "Jews and Arabs will have to live together."

He said that Israel could reach a "compromise" with residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip but ruled out the creation of a Palestinian state, saying that "security for Israel and a Palestinian state are mutually exclusive."

Partial South African Sanctions Repeal Claimed

MB2406060291 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Israel has decided to lift almost all the sanctions it imposed on South Africa in 1987.

The Israeli cabinet has adopted a proposal by the deputy prime minister and minister of trade and industry, Mr. Moshe Nisim, that sanctions be lifted partially.

The Israeli decision followed the repeal of all apartheid legislation by Parliament.

No Decision on Lifting Sanctions

TA2406101091 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jun 91 p A11

[Report by Yosi Grinstein and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] The decision to lift Israel's economic sanctions against South Africa will be made by the inner cabinet.

Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim's proposal to call off the economic sanctions on South Africa was not discussed in yesterday's cabinet session. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asked Nisim to submit his views on the subject to the pertinent ministers. Seeing that this is a very sensitive political issue, Shamir decided that the matter would be decided by the inner cabinet.

Nisim has called for lifting the economic sanctions against South Africa at once, as many European and Middle East countries have already done. He stressed that Israel is suffering as a result of the economic boycott against South Africa, and pointed out that only a few enlightened countries persist in their economic sanctions.

Prime Minister Shamir stated yesterday that "it is only a matter of a few weeks" before Israel calls off the sanctions against South Africa. Shamir was speaking to members of South Africa's Zionist Federation currently visiting Israel. [passage omitted]

Partial Iraqi Debts Paid to Local Businessmen

JN2006073891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jun 91 p 32

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—The Central Bank of Jordan has received instructions to pay $16 million worth of outstanding payments to Jordanian industrialists for goods and commodities sold in the Iraqi markets.

This is the final installment due Jordanian industrialists from an original total of $40 million that the Iraqi Government agreed to repay. Recently, and over a short period of time, $24 million has indeed been repaid.

Talks are currently under way between Jordanian and Iraqi delegations to set a timetable, not to exceed the end of this year, to repay a further $44 million in outstanding debts to Jordanian industrialists.

Crown Prince on Arab 'New Political Thinking'

NC1606083391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan has urged Iraq to reconsider its policies and develop a new approach that will promote the unity of all its ethnic groups and enable it extricate itself from the current crisis. In a statement to AL-AHRAM, to be published tomorrow, Crown Prince Hasan said that Iraq is "very near Lebanonization as a result of the agreement of the Kurds [as received] in the north and the possibility of the same thing happening in the south."

Crown Prince Hasan said that the Arab world must review all its assumptions in light of events in the outside world. He called for the development of a new political thinking in the Arab world that will serve the public interest and prevent a recurrence of the political and social upheavals that contributed to fragmenting the countries of the region. Noting that Arab governments had been unable to head off the present difficulties, he said we must reach agreement on achieving some measure of cooperation in security, in it broadest sense; and by promoting economic coordination to address economic problems we will also be promoting stability in the Middle East. He added that we must act quickly to chart our own future course before it is decided for us.

Crown Prince Hasan further said that we lack credibility because we have yet to awake from the nightmare of the Gulf crisis, which was in fact a crisis of conscience and of Arab thinking. He noted that the Gulf war was the product of certain regional problems, such as disputes over borders and waterways where settlements based on international law have yet to be implemented. Oil was also a key factor in the outbreak of the war, he added.

Crown Prince Hasan criticized the way most of the Arab media covered the Gulf crisis, largely confining themselves to relaying news and views from foreign news agencies and television stations. The Arab press, however, reflected official and popular Arab views, he said.

On the U.S. initiative for peace in the Middle East, Crown Prince Hasan said that the proposal put forward by U.S. President George Bush in March reflects the U.S. Administration's determination to make maximum use of the time between the end of the Gulf crisis and the start of U.S. elections, adding that the Arabs must extract maximum benefit from the principles enunciated by President Bush.

Al-Masri Views Peace Conference Prospects

PM1906151491 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 18 Jun 91 p 16

[Interview with Prime Minister-Designate Tahir al-Masri by Lucia Annunziata in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] [Annunziata] Minister, let us start with the little mystery of the king's visit to Jerusalem. What was behind that?

[Al-Masri] Nothing, and in any case I do not believe that visits help peace processes. There have been so many in the past: Al-Sadat paid one, but it took a long time and did not achieve much. The king of Morocco invited then Israeli Prime Minister Peres, but that was no good. There is no doubt that the peace process does need new ideas, but a brief trip to Jerusalem by an Arab leader does not resolve what are very complex issues. In his interview, the king discussed bilateral relations within the context of a negotiations process; and nobody denies that such relations will exist, that we will sit down with Israel, face to face, if negotiations do take place. In this regard the king said nothing new.

[Annunziata] Nevertheless the war changed Jordan's position, too. Has this not brought about changes in your country's way of thinking?

[Al-Masri] Indeed, we are now trying to cooperate with American ideas, even though they do not correspond to what we would like, because the Gulf war created new conditions. Now there are foreign troops on Arab soil, the Arab world is divided, and Israel has secured broad international sympathy and strengthened itself through a massive tide of new immigrants and American economic aid. These are new factors, and we must act accordingly. We are no longer in a position to dictate conditions, which is why we are now trying to adapt to actual conditions. Nevertheless, this situation does not mean that I must tell Israel that the occupied territories are not occupied and that we are willing to negotiate the withdrawal of its troops. These two conditions mark the limit of our flexibility.

[Annunziata] What are these American ideas to which you have adapted?

[Al-Masri] We cannot talk about them yet, because the United States intends to keep things secret until an agreement is reached.

[Annunziata] Does this remark of yours mean that there are many more options on the table than we know about?

[Al-Masri] I can only give you an example of how we are working. We wanted an international peace conference involving the United States, the USSR, Europe, and the United Nations. The United States told us that it is impossible. Israel wants a regional conference with only the United States, with little more than a formal function. The Americans said "no" to this too and suggested something else, to which we gave our approval. This is a point on which we have changed our opinion, as did Syria, which previously rejected the proposal of two committees for bilateral talks and then changed its mind. Obviously we want something in return for these approvals.

[Annunziata] What about Israel? Can you offer it anything really new compared to the past?

[Al-Masri] If there were an agreement, obviously its implementation would have to happen gradually. We are willing to accept this. The significance of such a commitment is obvious: Indeed, Israel would have time to see how things go and to recognize that we are sincere. Obviously we must be sure that the outcome of this process is a withdrawal. America knows of this approval on our part. This is the reason Baker suggested the two-track policy, which envisages Palestinian self-government for three years so that mutual trust can be built between Israel and us.

[Annunziata] But Israel also intends to have guarantees for its own security, and when it says "security" it has in mind not only Jordan but also Syria.

[Al-Masri] I do not believe that Israel is sincere: It only wants to gain time, because it knows that this is a factor in its favor, with thousands of immigrants arriving who will create a totally new de facto situation.

[Annunziata] The instability in the region—with the presence of Syria, for instance, in Lebanon—is so high that it seems very difficult to say that Israel's concerns are not genuine. Do you really believe that Damascus intends to pledge itself to a peace process with Israel?

[Al-Masri] I believe that Syria is genuinely interested—but not irrespective of the price. On the one hand it does intend to do this, and on the other it has its regional aspirations, and now it has to find a very delicate balance between these two ideas. Syria has a major influence in the region and it is trying to use it positively, but it does not trust Israel and wants its own guarantees. On the other hand, if Israel is worried about what is happening now in Lebanon it must prepare itself for even worse events in the future. Indeed, if an agreement is not reached this time, there will be serious consequences: The Arab countries will resolve their differences and even Jordan will have to seek protection. Israel is undoubtedly very strong now, and the Arab world is still in turmoil. If everything remains unstable the conflict will resume. So this is an important moment for Israel, too, because if it passes, the seeds of another war will be sown.

[Annunziata] From everything you say, you do not seem very optimistic. It seems to me that we must not expect anything new soon.

[Al-Masri] I would say that the chances of negotiations are decreasing, particularly because Israel seems unable to change its stance. Now it is up to America to decide. In 1980 another administration decided to give up, faced with a "no" from Israel. Now Baker is trying to sweeten Israel's "no," but again this time America faces a "no." So we shall see.

[Annunziata] So do you believe that there is a chance that America will unilaterally take responsibility for convening a peace conference?

[Al-Masri] We have heard this possibility mooted, but such a decision involves the American president's personal prestige to such a degree that it depends more on America's internal debate than on Middle Eastern affairs.

New Cabinet Enhances Joint Delegation Prospect

JN2006064591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jun 91 pp 1, 8

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's success in forming a cabinet backed by the major liberal, nationalist and leftist parties and trends in the country paves the way and increases prospects for the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to a peace conference to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict, according to political analysts.

Al-Masri's Palestinian origin, his long-standing service in the Jordanian government combined with the support he secured from certain Jordanian parties, which until recently had been extensions of Palestinian groups, can prove crucial to the forming of a Jordanian-Palestinian national consensus in favour of a joint delegation, the analysts maintain.

The Jordanian People's Democratic Party and the Jordanian Popular Unity Party—formerly extensions of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) respectively—had agreed to participate in the government on the basis of the later's commitment to the right of the PLO to choose its representatives to any proposed talks and removal of the remaining restrictions on political freedom in the country.

The two groups did not directly participate in the cabinet, but took part in naming five cabinet members who represent the broader Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA).

"We do not object to direct participation. It might happen in the future," said Taysir al-Zibri, head of the JPDP—who had until last year been a political bureau member of the DFLP.

The participation of JANDA in a cabinet headed by Mr. al-Masri is viewed as a reflection of an emerging consensus on a Jordanian negotiating position and a practical realisation of the definition of the role of Jordanians of Palestinian origin as outlined in the National Charter, ratified on June 9.

According to the National Charter, Jordanians from Palestinian origin are Jordanians as far as their rights and duties of political allegiance are concerned.

In fact the charter's definition was the culmination of a long debate triggered by Jordan's 1988 decision to relinquish the responsibility of the Israeli-occupied West Bank to the PLO. Since then a gradual and sometimes painful disengagement of institutions, including political parties, had followed. But the practical implementation of the disengagement, especially of the political groups, had proved to be very difficult as many political personalities and activists were involved in both the Jordanian and Palestinian political lives.

Therefore it was only expected that the designation of Mr. al-Masri (even though, according to well informed Jordanian sources, he was appointed as a Jordanian and not as a Palestinian) would revive the debate.

In the view of some analysts Mr al-Masri's appointment has put to the test the acceptance by all sides concerned of the new formula govering Palestinian-Jordanian relations. Initially, questions could not be avoided and were raised in Palestinian political circles particularly that both the U.S. and Israel have persistently rejected the PLO's role in peace negotiations.

But there were no real traces of the tension that had characterised Palestinian reaction to other Jordanian steps especially prior to the disengagement and democratisation process.

Nevertheless, Jordanian and Palestinian analysts agree that the formation of a broad-based national coalition cabinet (excluding the Muslim Brotherhood), as headed by Mr al-Masri, has expanded the options of joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and participation in the peace process.

Some analysts believe that maintaining a strong Jordanian-Palestinian national consensus will provide both Jordan and the PLO with the chance to overcome the obstacles that might be caused by procedures and to focus on the substance and the basis of any proposed peace talks.

"Israel has been trying to avoid the real issue, that is giving up territories for peace. Pressuring Israel to accept a territorial compromise should be the target of Jordan and the PLO, said one Jordanian analyst. "Differences on procedures will only play into Israel's hand."

In his letter of appointment to Mr al-Masri, His Majesty King Husayn indicated that Jordan will maintain a flexible position towards various peace proposals but pledged not to compromise Jerusalem.

According to well-informed sources, neither Jordan nor the PLO expect Israel to make serious shift in its uncompromising position, but are both keen on maintaining Jordanian-Palestinian unity.

The exclusion of the Muslim Brotherhood from the cabinet, by securing a coalition of all other trends and independent Islamists in parliament and outside, is also expected to be a factor that might help bring closer coordination between the PLO and Jordan—as the two seem to be keen on containing the influence of the Brotherhood in Jordan and Hamas in the occupied territories.

The Muslim Brotherhood, and its Palestinian and military wing which is Hamas, has repeatedly used the PLO's commitment to the peace process as a weapon against it both in the Israeli occupied territories and here.

Although Jordanian analysts do not believe that the Brotherhood will opt for a direct confrontation with the new government over the peace process, they expect it to widely use the issue to undercut the popular support for the cabinet and the parties which have backed it.

The analysts expect that the Brotherhood will try to prove its influence mainly in the camps, especially those which houses the Palestinian refugees of 1948 capitalising on the movements call for the liberation of the whole of Palestine.

"The competition between the new government and the Muslim Brotherhood will be a test for the Brotherhood, the cabinet, the PLO and the commitment to a peaceful solution," said one analyst. "But in all cases the Brotherhood movement has to be able to come out with viable and feasible alternative," the analyst added.

Lebanese Forces Hand Over Weapons to Army

NC2106171291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Forces today handed over to the Army 39 tanks, 25 boxes of ammunition, eight T-54 tanks, seven M-48 tanks, one armored personnel carrier, and 9,000 155-mm, 130-mm, 105-mm, and 100-mm shells. The value of these arms and ammunition is estimated at $5 million.

Major General Fu'ad Malik, Lebanese Forces chief of staff, strongly criticized the procrastination in the process of assimilating the militiamen, expressing his fear that the process may be a giant hoax. He called for an extraordinary solution to an extraordinary situation, noting that the militiamen replaced the government when it was absent from Lebanon.

Brigadier General Michel Mu'ayki thanked the Lebanese Forces for the arms they had voluntarily turned over to the legitimate government. He said the government is assembling its sons from all militias in rehabilitation camps. [passage omitted]

Al-Murr on Deployment; Says Jazzin 'Next Step'

NC2106193991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr affirmed today that there will be no change in the date of the Army's deployment in Sidon and the area east of Sidon, adding that Jazzin will be the next step. The Army, he said, will not negotiate with agent Lahd, because it does not negotiate with anyone; it only deploys. He stressed that what is happening in Sidon and its eastern environs is a prelude to the Army's deployment.

Minister al-Murr said in response to a question that there are no problems over the deployment or regrouping of the Syrian forces, because this is done according to the wishes of the Lebanese Government. He affirmed that the state machinery is moving ahead with determination and that there is complete agreement among officials.

Al-Bizri on Army Deployment, Recognition of PLO

NC2206055291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] In an interview with the newspapers AL-ANWAR and AL-NIDA', Minister Nazih al-Bizri has stated that the date set for the Army deployment in Sidon and its environs, which will commence at the beginning of July [as heard], is final. He said beginning from that date until September, the deployment will be consolidated to reach other areas, including the Palestinian camps.

Al-Bizri said Israel is the only remaining obstacle, but he added that the government is determined to proceed with its measures. While ruling out the possibility of Israel launching wide-scale operations in the south, al-Bizri warned the inhabitants of Sidon and those east of the Sidon region that some Israeli agents, using forged identity cards, have sneaked into the region to commit sabotage. He urged these inhabitants to ignore rancor and rally around their homeland, Lebanon.

Regarding the political dialogue with the PLO, al-Birzri said there will be further rounds of dialogue with the PLO. He noted, however, that the official recognition of the PLO and opening an office or embassy in Lebanon is not possible while current circumstances prevail. He added: This matter could be discussed when the government's authority is secured throughout Lebanese territory and UN Resolution 425 is implemented.

Al-Bizri Denies Army Deployment Obstacles

NC2306083991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Nazih al-Bizri has affirmed that everyone agrees in principle to the Army's deployment in the Sidon district. He denied there are obstacles regarding the deployment. Al-Bizri said he believes the Army is ready to defend the region and, if necessary, to enter Jazzin by force, because anything else would mean we have failed. He said the final position will be conveyed after the holiday. Al-Bizri pointed out that when the Army begins deployment, an announcement will be made concerning the deadline for the handing over of weapons. When this deadline expires, the Army will conduct raids to search for weapons. He added that the deployment will begin in Sidon city and then extend to the area east of Sidon.

Further Remarks on Deployment

NC2306095291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Nazih al-Bizri has affirmed that everyone agrees in principle with the Army's deployment in the Sidon district. He added that there are no obstacles regarding this, but there are some questions. The final position, he said, will be conveyed after 'Id al-Adha.

In an interview with the Voice of the People radio, al-Bizri explained that the questions pertain to the Army's role if there is an attack against Sidon and how the Army will deal with civilians. He noted that there are some reservations regarding the positions held by armed groups east of Sidon. He affirmed that the Army is committed to reopening the Sidon-Jazzin road. He said: I think the Army is ready to defend this area, even if it has to enter Jazzin by force, because anything to the contrary means we have failed.

Al-Bizri said the deployment will begin in Sidon city. The Army will then deploy east of Sidon and spread to the area under the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. He said he believes the Army will link the coastal area with western al-Biqa' in one month. The issue of the Palestinian camps will be left until negotiations take place between the Lebanese Government and the PLO.

Regarding the collection of weapons, al-Bizri said that when the Army begins its deployment, it will announce the deadline for the handing over of weapons. After this deadline, the Army will conduct raids to search for weapons.

Israelis Reportedly To Withdraw From Jazzin

NC2206114691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Ministerial sources say that the Lahd [South Lebanese Army] army and the Israelis will evacuate the Jazzin area on 15 July after the Lebanese Army consolidates its presence in the Sidon area and along the Kafr Falus front during the first half of July.

A Lebanese Army battalion currently present in Jazzin will be tasked with temporarily preserving security in Jazzin and its environs until the Lebanese Army enters the town and opens the main road linking Jazzin with western al-Biqa' through the Kafr Hunah-al-Rayhan-al-Qatranah-al-Surayri intersection.

Israeli, Lahd Forces Activities in South Reported

NC2306174191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] It has been reported that the Israeli occupation forces shelled the Abu Rashid line in Western al-Biqa' from their positions in al-Ahmadiyah shortly after 1600 today.

Earlier reports from the south revealed military reinforcements by the occupation forces and Lahd's militiamen. The reports said that foot and mechanized patrols made up of Israeli forces and Lahd militiamen patrolled the eastern sector in the south last night and this morning. It has also been reported that these forces have raked the liberated areas in western al-Biqa' adjacent to the occupied strip with flares and automatic weapons.

Israeli Shelling Near Security Zone Reported

NC2306174991 Paris AFP in English 1643 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, June 23 (AFP)—The Israeli Army on Sunday blasted an uninhabited strip of territory just outside its "security zone" in southern Lebanon, firing off 20 shells from a position in Marj U'yun, Islamic militants reported.

The Islamic Resistance, the paramilitary wing of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement, said the attack with 155 mm shells was aimed in the direction of the Abu Rashid hill.

There are no apparent military targets in the region, according to security sources.

Israeli troops and their supporters in the South Lebanon Army (SLA) routinely open fire on deserted areas near the security zone to dissuade infiltration attempts by anti-Israeli militants.

The SLA on Friday shelled the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon following an operation by the Islamic Resistance in the nearby Kafr Falus region.

Junblatt Says Beirut-Sidon Talks Could Fail

NC2406064291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt does not completely rule out the possibility that the talks between Beirut and Sidon over Army deployment in the south could fail. In an interview with our radio, Junblatt said that if the talks with the Palestinian side reached a dead end, then Lebanese legitimacy would stop at the al-Awwali River, and part of Lebanon would be separated from the homeland geographically, politically, and economically. This would be a serious matter that could place us in a dilemma of linking the Lebanese crisis and the issue of the south with the Middle East conflict, he added.

In response to a question, Minister Junblatt said if Israel does not withdraw from the south, we cannot ask Syria to withdraw from al-Biqa'. In such a case, we will return to a small Lebanon, and this means the issues of returning evacuees to their homes, reconstruction, and the economic process stipulated under the al-Ta'if accord will come to a halt.

Regarding the evacuees' return, Minister Junblatt noted the need to rebuild the war-damaged villages, provided this goes hand in hand with a political consolidation process.

Asked about the course of the current government, he said he has no role to play in this government, which under its present composition constitutes an institution. He added: We meet every week to find that the basic issues are already decided without our knowledge—we are the last to know. Amidst jokes and serious talk, yelling and shouting, decisions are made.

Regarding his boycott of the committee in charge of the evacuees, he said the reason for this is that he has reservations about the committee's composition. He added: I am not prepared to take part in this committee, which is not qualified to find a solution to an issue with such strategic importance. He said he will not participate in this committee and noted that the solution to this issue is to establish an authority with greater responsiblities.

Concerning the Army, Minister Junblatt said Army Commander General Emile Lahhud disappointed him. He said most of those in control of the Army belong to the same old, adverse, traditional brass that led to the disintegration of the Army.

Buwayz Calls for Freeze on Resistance Acts

NC2406065291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has called on the resistance to freeze its operations in the south. He

said such a freeze would deprive Israel of the remaining pretexts in its hands and would enable the Lebanese state to recover the south.

In an interview with the Lebanese Broadcating Corporation, Buwayz said the government had informed the Palestinians that its decision conerning the disbanding of the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias is clear. Buwayz said it is impossible to hold a direct dialogue with the South Lebanese Army commander. [passage omitted]

Buwayz praised the treaty of cooperation, coordination, and brotherhood berween Lebanon and Syria, which he said greatly benefited Lebanon. He noted the possibility of exchanging ambassadors between the two countries, adding that this issue is closely tied to the degree of confidence to be established between the two peoples and countries, as well as the decline in the former state of animosity between them.

Possible Hostage Exchange Detailed

NC2106132791 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, June 21 (AFP)—Two Lebanese prisoners held by a proxy Israeli militia on Friday appealed to the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement to release 12 Western hostages and Israeli troops in exchange for their freedom.

The prisoners' appeal, the first of its kind, was broadcast by the Voice of the South radio of the pro-Israel South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

The men identified themselves as Hizballah members Kamil 'Isa and Samir Hasan Qasiem, two of some 420 Lebanese and Palestinian inmates held near here in al-Khiyam prison.

The jail is located in the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon which is jointly manned by SLA and Israeli forces.

The prisoners called on Hizballah spiritual guide Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah "and all those who can help in the hostage crisis to rapidly undertake an exchange between prisoners from al-Khiyam and Westerners."

They also asked that seven Israeli soldiers reported missing or captured in Lebanon be part of the deal.

Hizballah last month said it was willing to release two Israeli soldiers in exchange for Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israel and its allies and stressed it was holding two Israeli troops only.

The offer was widely seen as a gesture that could help ease the hostage crisis and came amid official statements in Lebanon and Iran that Westerners could soon be set free by their captors.

Hizballah has repeatedly denied it was holding any Western hostages, whose abduction for the most part has been claimed by pro-Iranian Shiite groups.

The appeal coincided with the return to Lebanon of Shaykh Faldallah, after a three-week visit to Iran during which he discussed the hostage issue with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Pressure on Israel Urged for Prisoner Exchange

NC2206140491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has called on all Arabs to pressure Israel to accept a prisoner exchange deal so the Westerners held hostage in Lebanon can be released.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din said that this kind of deal's success depends on securing Israel's acceptance through Arab, American, and European pressure.

Harb Makes Comments Before Departure for U.S.

NC2306121191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Interview with Education and Fine Arts Minister Butrus Harb by unidentified reporters in Beirut airport "before his departure" for a conference in Washington D.C.—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] You are leaving today for Washington on an official mission following the problems at the Lebanese University and the stand you announced after the recent Cabinet session. What is the nature of this mission, and is it so important that it forces you to travel and leave the Lebanese University situation as it is?

[Harb] My office will issue an appeal tomorrow or the day after to the Lebanese University professors on the university issue. The appeal will be addressed through the media. Regarding the visit I am making, it is not an official one, although it may include political contacts. The visit is in response to an earlier invitation to participate in a conference in Washington on Lebanon and the reconstruction process. The visit will, of course, provide an opportunity to hold contacts with officials. A series of lectures also will be delivered to explain the Lebanese situation and the peace and reconstruction processes in Lebanon.

Naturally, it was not possible to avoid, delay, or postpone this date, because the conference has been set and officials from other parts of the world have been invited. I think it is a national duty to explain the Lebanese issue and the stages through which it is passing, because, despite all the efforts we are making, Lebanon needs support. I also think the United States has a large role to play on the international level, particularly in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Regarding the pending problems here, I would like to affirm that I am still waiting for the ministerial meeting [in mid-July]. I already have made the necessary contacts. Upon my return, which I hope will be soon, I will resume my

contacts regarding the case. I hope that together we can reach a solution that might make it easy for the ministerial meeting to meet the professors' demands.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] permission to travel? [words indistinct] his excellency the president in this regard?

[Harb] It is natural that before a minister leaves Lebanon, he would take leave of his excellency the president. The call on the president provided an opportunity for me to raise the pending issue—the Lebanese University. His excellency the president fully understands the problem. In cooperation with his excellency the president, we will attempt to find a suitable solution to this problem. [passage omitted]

Urges End of Strike

NC2306124791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Education Minister Butrus Harb has appealed to the Lebanese University professors to call off their strike to pave the way for resolving the issue during the ministerial meeting in mid-July and to salvage the scholastic year at the Lebanese University.

In a statement before leaving for Washington and Paris, Minister Harb said the United States has a major role to play in the implementation of UN Resolution 425. He said the purpose of the Washington conference is to explain the salvation and peace process in Lebanon.

Hizballah Warns of 'Annihilation' of Iraqi Shiites

NC2206071491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the tragedy of the Iraqi people in southern Iraq. The statement said: Intensive military preparations are under way by the the Iraqi regime in southern Iraq amidst international silence and indifference and a misleading atmosphere that seeks to obliterate and cover up these preparations. This shows that the United States, which contributed to pushing the region toward the Gulf war, murdered the Iraqi people, and destroyed their resources and economy, is the same one that turned a blind eye to Saddam's continued presence in power and the one that weakened the Iraqi opposition to prevent any real change inside Iraq that would reflect the Iraqi people's needs and their desire to break loose from U.S. calculations.

The statement adds: The Americans are continuing their satanic designs, taking advantage of America's direct influence on world politics, as well as on the positions of world parties. At the moment, we notice there is a suspicious international silence over the enormous military preparations in southern Iraq by Saddam's agent regime, which seeks to close in on more than one million oppressed Muslims and kill them without anyone lifting a finger to help them.

This extremely serious matter is new, incriminating evidence against all international organizations claiming to be neutral and defenders of human rights. This issue serves as further confirmation of an already established conviction; that the arrogance—deeply immersed in its greed, malice, and tyranny—charts its political calculations to serve solely its own interests, without any regard for human values or principles. The so-called new world order is intended to be carved out of the remains of our nation and out of the sufferings of our tortured peoples.

The Muslim Iraqi people in the south are about to be subjected to a true campaign of annihilation, the chapters of which are unfolding gradually, by a regime that possesses evil and senseless will, that dealt a fatal blow to the nation, and continues its senseless acts in a more horrifying and brutal manner. These people, more than ever before, need the loud voices of honest people and their struggling willpower to save their youth, women, and children from this imminent danger.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Gorbachev

JN1606052291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Jun 91

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on international efforts to convene a peace conference.

The message was conveyed when Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov last night.

Mashariqah Calls For UN-Sponsored Peace Talks

JN2306133491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Doha, 23 Jun (WAKH)—Syrian Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah has said that his country believes an international conference could be the way to achieve peace in the Middle East if it has decisionmaking authority, rather than serving only as a framework. He stressed that the United Nations should sponsor the conference and that it should be attended by the six [as received] Security Council permanent member states and all parties concerned with the region's crisis.

In a statement published today by the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ and carried by the QNA, the Syrian vice president emphasized that if the conference were to convene, it should pass resolutions that lead to a comprehensive and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the acknowledgement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their soil.

Dr. Mashariqah said the Israeli entity is not seeking peace with the Arabs. On the contrary, it seeks to impose capitulation on them and to continue its settlement program to Judaize Palestine at one stage and establish greater Israel at a later one. Israel also seeks to control the Arab region politically, economically, militarily, and culturally, he added.

Dr. Mashariqah paid tribute to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and said the intifadah placed the Palestinian people on the right course to liberate the land and regain usurped rights. He stressed that Syria supports the stone-throwing heroes in their struggle toward liberation and victory.

Bush Statement Said To Highlight 'Intransigence'

JN1806160091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As a clear indication of Shamir's intransigence rejecting peace, U.S. President George Bush has said that geography and military power cannot by themselves guarantee Israel's security, and that a just and lasting peace is the way to genuine and permanent security.

All states and peoples now realize that Israel is not concerned with security as much as it is concerned with seizing Arab land, expanding on it, and changing all the features of Palestine. If we recall the statements of the enemy's leaders in the wake of their aggressive war in 1967, we would clearly realize the extent of their deception. At that time they claimed not to covet an inch of the occupied territories and that they would return the land to its owners when the Arabs agreed to sit down at the negotiating table and exchange land for peace. Only months after the occupation, strong statements were made about unifying Jerusalem; later Jerusalem was declared the eternal capital of Israel. After Jerusalem, Zionist law was imposed on the Golan, and after the Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were considered liberated land and inseparable parts of Greater Israel, as the enemy leaders put it. The same case applies in southern Lebanon. When the enemy forces invaded the sisterly country, we heard strong statements denying any expansionist Israeli ambition. Today, the Shamir government openly declares that it will not withdraw from Lebanon, even if security prevailed in the border areas and the Lebanese Army was widely deployed.

Israel only wants to expand. It rejects international efforts and places obstacles before the U.S. endeavors because Israel and peace are contradictory terms. Zionist talk about Greater Israel, which encompasses all of Palestine, in addition to the Golan and southern Lebanon, certainly does not mean that Israel's borders stop at this plan. Greater Israel allows for constant amendment of borders. If Zionism can transfer all the world's Jews to the region at once, it would not hesitate to do so. Leaders of great and small countries alike realize this blatant fact. U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who harvested one failure after another in Israel, repeatedly called on the Shamir government to abandon the plan for Greater Israel. President Bush considered settlement a profound obstacle in the way of peace. European leaders insist on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, because isolating the Palestinians from the peace process only means handing the entire land of Palestine to the Zionist settlers.

Those concerned with peace and with launching a peace process in the region are now urged to translate their words into deeds. The opportunity for peace that is available now will not recur. This opportunity requires more than wishes: It requires actual pressure on Israel to force it to heed the will of the international community and withdraw from the occupied territories. This is the real measure of the sincerity of the intentions that will determine the future of the region.

U.S. 'Hesitation' Over Israeli Measures Queried

JN1906171991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Whoever listens to Israeli leaders' statements these days will be faced with a series of provocative statements that challenge a world whose intentions are to consolidate security and peace on earth and resolve international disputes peacefully on the basis of justice and international legitimacy.

Whoever examines these statements closely will find that all the efforts exerted, the time wasted, and the hopes of the region's peoples for an early peace neither concern Israel nor commit it to anything. In the Israeli view, these hopes are no more than illusions that do not change the features of the status quo, but only add more intransigence and disobedience to the Zionist mentality.

If the Zionist statements—as we and the world hear them—were only verbal political maneuvers, we would have understood them in this context, and our hopes and assessments of the opportunity available to establish peace now would have remained as they were: unshaken. However, what is taking place on the ground in terms of Israeli practices parallels or even exceeds all these statements and declarations, which are hostile to peace and consecrate aggression.

Israel not only says it will not stop settlements, but also builds settlements on the ground and brings Jewish immigrants from all over the earth to plant them in the Arab occupied territories in the form of new war camps that are likely to wage wars, not to welcome peace, and to support aggression against the Arabs, not to participate in securing peace and security in the Middle East.

Observers following U.S. reactions and its policy on efforts to launch the peace process and on Israel's position toward them will note that U.S. State Department and White House spokesmen have repeatedly expressed vexation over Israel's behavior, which has harmed U.S. credibility several times. Every time U.S. Secretary of State Baker visited the region, he was received by Israel with more settlements and settlement decisions that blocked his endeavors even before he began.

But what confuses everyone interested in the region's crisis and recent developments is the . United States' hesitation over Israel's measures and the unjustified separation of the issue of supplying weapons to Israel, or stockpiling them in Israel, and the issue of the flagrant challenges to the announced U.S. desire to bring about peace in the region based on UN resolutions and in accordance with the land-for-peace principle.

We and the world are waiting to see the punishment that the international community must inflict on Israel, rather than a reward to Israel that will encourage it to continue its intransigence and disobedience.

Commentary Says 'Ball Is In the U.S. Court'

JN2106145691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, ever since the U.S. Administration announced its Middle East peace initiative, it has specified Resolutions 242 and 338 as its basis. The U.S. Administration, furthermore, has committed itself to a comprehensive, durable peace and to dealing with international resolutions in the same manner.

It is well known that the United States mobilized a large number of governments, including, among others, European governments, to secure Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and to liberate it by all possible means. Arab countries also sided with Kuwait and supported it fully out of their belief in the justice of the Kuwaiti cause and in support of the worldwide trend to establish international principles and charters by force, if need be, and to oppose those who violate these principles and charters.

Since the announcement of the U.S. initiative, several months have passed without any noticeable progress, for the initiative collided with Israel's no's and its defiance of international will. In fact, Israeli recalcitrance has increased with every tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The Israeli prime minister himself led the campaign of recalcitrance when he gave free rein to the policy of large-scale settlement building and declared time and again that Israel will never withdraw from the occupied territories. Moreover, he linked Israel's participation in the desired peace conference to the exclusion of any role by the United Nations or the superpowers; in other words, he linked participation to the exclusion of international resolutions in advance. Shamir also set the condition of direct and individual negotiations with every Arab state on its own in an exposed attempt to fragment the unity of the Arab position.

Even the proposed peace conference will be confined to one opening session, after which it will end. There is no agenda for the conference to serve as a guide. Following Israel's declaration of its refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories and its demand to approve the members of the Palestinian delegation, the peace conference—unjustly named—would become, if held under Israel's conditions, the actual funeral of peace efforts.

It is natural that the Arabs, and all the world, should look toward the U.S. capital and wonder what position President Bush will take toward Israel's intransigence and its grave defiance of the international community. This is because dealing in one spirit with the resolutions and principles of the international community requires strong pressure on Israel, starting with an end to financial and military aid, imposing an economic boycott, and adopting stronger measures if warranted, just as in the Gulf crisis. This is because halting aid alone would force the Shamir government to reconsider its positions and the risk of embroiling Israel in a conflict with the United States and the world.

But none of this has happened. Despite the fact that there is an implicit crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations, U.S. weapons and financial support to Israel have not stopped. Washington politicians have adopted the policy

of giving incentives to Israel to make it desire peace; that is, providing more aid to soften its position while ignoring the racist, expansionist, Zionist nature that excels in blackmail and cares nothing for moral scruples.

It was leaked recently that the U.S. Administration has reneged on the UN role and satisfied itself with giving it the role of a silent partner. It is obvious that peace efforts have lost their momentum and that every day witnesses more regression while Israel continues to build settlements at full speed and to change the features of the occupied Arab territories. Despite all this, the bases of peace are clear; they do not require all this complication. The fundamental question that should be posed is: Is Israel willing to give the occupied Arab territories back to their Arab owners in exchange for peace?

The Arabs have expressed their sincere desire to establish peace. Israel replied by rejecting withdrawal, even from one inch of the occupied territories, as Shamir himself has said. The international resolutions to which the U.S. Administration has committed itself stipulate Israeli withdrawal. Now, the ball is in the U.S. court, and the Arabs, along with the rest of the world, are awaiting a position from Washington that can reverse Israel's no's, enhance international credibility, and eliminate the widespread belief that Israel alone is allowed to violate principles and charters, even if it threatens international peace.

Paper Urges Halting Aid to Israel

JN2306065491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 23 Jun 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Settlement Bind," the newspaper TISHRIN says: It is clear that efforts to reach a Middle East settlement are now in a bind, thanks to Israel's intransigence and its refusal to respond to the will of truth, justice, and peace. The enemy government continues its large-scale settlement drive in the occupied Arab territories and has failed to heed peace efforts.

TISRHIN adds: When we review the statements made by Israeli officials since the usurpation of Palestine, we find only talk about expelling the Arabs from the land. Shamir consecrated this policy recently when he asked Minister Ze'evi, who advocates the collective transfer of the Arabs from their land through the use of force and tyranny, to join his cabinet.

The paper goes on to say: Observers are optimistic about the efforts of the U.S. Administration and President Bush's declared commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on Resolutions 242 and 338, because the influence of the U.S. Administration—particulary that of President Bush—is capable of returning Israel to its senses. It is impossible for Washington to deal with international resolutions using double standards while smoke from the Gulf war continues to cloud the skies.

TISHRIN affirms that Israel, as statements by its officials show, has opted for occupation rather than peace, and expansion rather than right and justice. It has not hesitated to thwart U.S. efforts, use lies and procrastination, and employ the Zionist pressure groups to beleaguer the U.S. position, the paper adds.

TISHRIN says: This flagrant disobedience of the international community cannot be condoned, as it is nowadays, since Israel interprets silence as encouragement and continued aid as reward. The course of events has shown that only the language of effective and appropriate pressure can make the enemy leaders reconsider their positions and policies.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: Halting aid to Israel and referring the issue to the Security Council for consideration if the disobedience is sustained is the proper way to achieve true peace in the region based on Resolutions 242 and 338; that is, withdrawal from the occupied territories and the realization of the Palestinians' rights to freedom, dignity, and a decent future.

Bangladesh

Premier Zia Congratulates Indian Prime Minister

BK2106135291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao on his assumption of the office of the prime minister of India. In a message sent to him Friday, she said his election as the prime minister of India comes at a significant time in that country's history. It also coincides with the coming in power of the duly elected democratic government in Bangladesh. The prime minister said this will provide us an opportunity to work together for further strengthening the existing close and friendly relations between the two countries. Begum Khaleda Zia assured her best cooperation in this (?endeavor) for mutual benefit of the two peoples in the coming days.

Hopes Rao To Work To Resolve Issues

BK2206020991 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0110 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman has expressed the hope that the new Indian Government of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao will take positive steps in resolving the outstanding problems between Bangladesh and India. Talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport, the foreign minister said Mr. Rao is well aware of all the problems and it is expected that he will take realistic steps to tackle them.

India

Rao To Name New Ministerial Portfolios

Spokesman on Portfolios

BK2206150291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said the allocation of portfolios to the new ministers is expected to be done shortly. Talking to reporters in New Delhi, he maintained that the ministry is well balanced.

Commenting on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] decision to vote against the motion of confidence to be brought forward in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Mukherjee said his party is not concerned about the move.

Ministerial Portfolios Announced

BK2306162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Portfolios have been allocated to central ministers. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has retained the key ministries of Defense and Industry. Home goes to Mr. S.B. Chavan, while Dr. Manmohan Singh is the new finance minister. External Affairs has been given to Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki and Human Resource Development to Mr. Arjun Singh. Mr. Balram Jakhar is the new Agriculture minister. Mr. M.L. Fotedar is to look after Health and Family Welfare, and Sitaram Kesari Ministry of Welfare. Railways goes to Mr. Jaffar Sharif and Civil Aviation and Tourism to Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia. B. Shankaranand gets Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr. V.C. Shukla Water Resources, and Mr K. Bhaskar Reddy Law Justice and Company Affairs. Parliamentary Affairs has been allocated to Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Urban Development to Mrs. Sheila Kaul.

The prime minister will also hold charge of personnel, public grievances and Pensions, sciece and technology, ocean development, electronics, atomic energy, space, chemicals and fertilizers, rural development, civil supplies and public distribution.

The official spokesman said the prime minister has recommended the allocation of portfolios to the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman.

Mr. P. Chidambaram will hold independent charge of commerce as minister of State.

The portfolios allotted to other ministers of State with independent charge are:

Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja	Information and Broadcasting
Mr. Rajesh Pilot	Communications
Mr. Kamal Nath	Environment and Forest
Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev	Steel
Mr. Ashok Gehlot	Textiles
Mr. Girdhar Gomengo	Food Processing Industries
P.A. Sangma	Coal
Jadish Tytler	Surface Transport
Mr. K. Ramamurthy	Labor
Mr. Kalpanath Rai	Power and Non-Conventional Energy
Mr. H.R. Bhardwaj	Planning and Program Implementation
Mr. Tarun Gagoi	Ministry of Food
Mr. Balramsingh Yadav	Mines
Portfolios of other ministers of State are:	
Mrs. Margaret Alva	Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions
Mr. M. Arunachalam	Urban Development
Kamaluddin Ahmed	Civil Supplies and Public Distribution
Miss Mamata Banerji	Youth Affairs and Sports
Eduardo Faleiro	External Affairs
M.O.H. Farooq	Civil Aviation and Tourism
M.M. Jacob	Home and Parliamentary Affairs
R. Kumaramangalam	Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice
S. Krishnakumar	Petroleum and Natural Gas
Professor P.J. Kurien	Industry

Mr. K.C. Lenka	Agriculture
Mr. Mallikarjun	Railways
Mr. Chintamohan	Chemicals and Fertilizers
Mr. Uttambhai H. Patel	Rural Development
Mr. Shantaram Porthuke	Finance
Mr. M. Ramachandaran	Agriculture
M. Dalbir Singh	Finance
Mr. G. Venkataswamy	Rural Development
Mr. P.K. Thungan	Industry
Portfolios allotted to the six deputy ministers are:	
Pavan Singh Ghatewal	Labor
Mrs. A. Kamalakumari	Welfare
Mr. Salman Khurshid	Commerce
Mr. P.V. Rangaiyya Naidu	Communications
Mr. Ramlal Rahi	Home Affairs
Miss Girija Vyas	Information and Broadcasting

The spokesman told newsmen that the prime minister had been working on the allocation of portfolios for the last two days as he wanted special thrust for key infrastructure areas like steel, mines, and coal and also on rural development. He said the prime minister wants special attention for agriculture and rural development for the betterment of the rural poor. Mr. Narasimha Rao has indicated that the public distribution system will be made a significant instrument of rural development.

Ministers of Four States Announced

BK2206145891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The process of forming new governments in four states and one union territory is under way.

Mr. Kalyan Singh is to be the new chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. He was unanimously elected leader of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] state legislature party at a meeting in Lucknow this evening. The new ministry will be sworn in on Monday [24 June].

The former union minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, has been unanimously elected leader of the state Congress-I legislature party at a meeting in Chandigarh today. Mr. Bhajan Lal is expected to be sworn in as chief minister at 1100 tomorrow.

In Kerala, Mr. K. Karunakaran has been unanimously elected leader of the Congress-I legislature party. The new Congress-I-led UDF [United Democratic Front] Ministry under the leadership of Mr. Karunakaran will be sworn in on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Hiteshwar Saikya is to be the new chief minister of Assam. He was unanimously elected leader of the Congress-i legislature party in Guwahati today.

In the union territory of Pondicherry, the Congress-I legislature party is meeting today to elect its leader.

Prime Minister Makes Policy Address

BK2206173691 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1640 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, place, date not given—recorded]

Namashkar [Hello]. Fellow countrymen, I address you at a difficult time. Rajiv Gandhi's assassination brought home to us in a brutal manner the grave danger to the stability and integrity of the nation. A barbaric act snatched away from us a great leader in his prime. But his vision of India will live on and will continue to inspire and guide future generations.

In their hour of crisis, the people of India has stood as one. They have given a defeating reply to the forces which seek to destabilize the country and subvert democracy.

The electoral process just completed has yet again demonstrated the strength and vitality of Indian democracy. It has once again demonstrated the unity of the Indian people beyond challenge. The dangers posed to the country by problems in Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam are very real. The general law and order situation is a matter of alarm as is the communal situation.

The government will address itself to those problems with determination and single-mindedness. We will ensure that the unity and integrity of the country are safeguarded. While genuine grievances of the people will be redressed, terrorism and other fissiparous tendencies will be dealt with firmly. I am certain in my mind that we shall succeed in this endeavor, for we draw our strength from our people who have behind them a long tradition of amity, cooperation, and togetherness and deep love for their motherland.

The economy is in crisis. The balance of payment situation is exceedingly difficult. Inflationary pressures on the price level are considerable. There is no time to lose. The government and the country cannot keep living beyond their means and there are no soft options left. We must tighten our belt and be prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to preserve our economic independence, which is an integral part of our vision for a strong nation. In the pursuit of this objective, my government attaches the highest priority to restoration of the health of the economy. In the past, we have faced such crises, overcome them.

The economy has the strength and the resilience. The people have the resolve; together we shall overcome. This is a national endeavor in the pursuit of which we shall rise above sectional interests and partisan politics. In this task, we seek the cooperation of all.

We are determined to address the problems of the economy in a decisive manner. The postponed union budget will be

presented in a month. India shall maintain its unblemished and perfect record in meeting its international obligations. The dialogue with the multinational financial institutions, in particular the IMF, would be continued. Fiscal discipline must be observed. Hard decisions would have to be implemented to manage the balance of payment situation and to curb inflation. At the same time, we will ensure that the process of adjustment is managed in such a manner that it protects the poor and sustains the momentum of growth.

This government is committed to removing the cobwebs that come in the way of rapid industrialization. We will work toward making India internationally competitive, taking full advantage of modern science and technology and opportunities offered by the evolving global economy. Utmost efficiency will be fostered. We cannot tolerate waste, inefficiency, and indifference to quality in the public or any other sector.

We also welcome foreign direct investment so as to accelerate the tempo of development, upgrade our technologies, and to promote our exports. Obstacles that come in the way of allocating foreign investment on a sizable scale will be removed. A time-bound program will be worked out to streamline our industrial policies and programs to achieve the goal of a vibrant economy that rewards creativity, enterprise, and innovativeness.

I see a very special role for nonresident Indians to play in this process. We shall make investment in India a rewarding experience.

Agriculture will receive the government's close attention. The progress made so far should be consolidated and conditions created for greater and diversified progress. Close attention will be paid to expanding irrigation and the development of dry-land agriculture. Extension services will be strengthened and modern technology brought to the doorsteps of our farmers. A fair price for farmers will be ensured.

It will be our endeavor to improve the quality of life of millions of our people who are living in want and deprivation. The betterment of rural poor will receive the government's closest attention. It will be our endeavor to develop appropriate linkages so that the pressure of land on rural areas is eased and more employment opportunities are generated with a view to tackling the problems of unemployment, underemployment, and low income.

Administration will be made more responsive, and it will be ensured that every rupee spent on development reaches the intended beneficiaries. The existing policies and financial assistance will be expanded for rural housing. Close attention will be paid to the improvement of the primary health and the infrastructure of primary health, particularly in rural areas.

The strengthening of the public distribution system will receive the government's immediate attention. Public distribution system will be expanded not only to cover the rural areas, but would also sharply target the poor. The public distribution system will be made an important instrument in our fight against rural poverty and improving the quality of life of our people. We have to evolve a strategy that at once combines policy initiatives with the full enforcement of the laws of the land.

We are committed to protect the constitutional and legal rights and the legitimate interests of the religious, linguistic, and ethnic minorities. We shall set up special courts—in fact more special courts—to try communal offenses. A composite rapid action force will be constituted to quell communal riots. The minorities commission will be provided statutory status with a view to enhancing its effectiveness.

It is unfortunate that at the very juncture when India needed to give a lead in this historic endeavor, its international prestige suffered setbacks and its relations with friends and neighbors were neglected. It will be the endeavor of my government to restore India to its place of honor in the comity of nations and ensure that India's voice is once again heard with respect and attention in world fora. Our relations with neighbors will enjoy the priority they deserve so that our region becomes an area of peace, prosperity, and stability.

I have formed a broadbased, weaker, section-oriented council of ministers. This is the only the beginning, the beginning of a program to reach out to the men and women of India in every nook and corner. My team understands the heartbeat of the people. Our vision is to create employment, eradicate poverty, and reduce inequality. We want social harmony and communal amity. We want a more humane society.

As the twentieth century draws to a close, we cannot live with poverty and destitution among large sections of our population. [Mahatma] Gandhi said that it was his ambition to wipe every tear from every eye. That is the vision which will inspire the work of my government. Jai Hind [Hail India].

Reactions to Postponement of Punjab Elections

Parties React To Postponement

BK2106163491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] There have been mixed reactions to the postponement of elections in Punjab. While the Congress-I and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] welcomed the decision, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party], the Janata Dal, and most parties in Punjab have criticized it. The SJP has criticized the deferment of elections in Punjab. The party spokesman, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, said it is surprising how the election commissioners come to a finding overnight that a free and fair poll is not possible in the state. He said that the decision to hold elections was taken by the Chandra Shekhar government to enable the people in Punjab to have their duly elected government.

Welcoming the decision, the CPI-M leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, said had the decision been taken earlier, many lives would have been spared. The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Farooqi, described the decision as belated but good, while the Punjab unit of the party said it is a cruel joke.

The Janata Dal has protested against what it called the arbitrary postponement of the Punjab elections by the chief election commissioner. Its spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, was talking to newsmen in New Delhi.

Criticizing the postponement, the BJP termed it as politically motivated. In a resolution adopted at its national executive, the party felt that the step will have serious consequences.

A spokesman of the Akali Dal-Mann said in Chandigarh that the postponement shows that the government was not serious about the restoration of democratic process in the state. The Akali Dal-Badal has said that this move would be a setback to the forces trying to give peace a chance in the state. A senior state Congress-I leader, Mr. Yash, however, said this decision has saved the state from a great crisis.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, has justified his decision to postpone elections in Punjab. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said threats to candidates and intimidation of voters were some of the factors that warranted this decision. He reiterated there is no provision for cancellation of polls in Punjab.

Replying to questions on the 13 countermanded Lok Sabha constituencies, Mr. Seshan said the states have been asked to indicate a convenient time so that the poll process is initiated in these places. He said he is awaiting the returning officer to formally declare the Amethi seat vacant so that elections can be held there. Mr. Seshan said new returning officers have joined the Lok Sabha constituencies of Auranagabad in Bihar and Devangere in Karnataka. He hoped that the counting in these two constituencies will be resumed soon. In Monghyr and Begusarai, the inquiry officers appointed by the commission are looking into complaints. Mr. Seshan said a decision on these two seats will be taken only after the receipt of their reports.

Punjab Governor Meets President

BK2206164091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The governor of Punjab, General O.P. Malhotra, called on the president, Mr. Venkataraman, this afternoon and briefed him on the situation in the state. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] spokesman said the discussion lasted about half an hour. The meeting comes in the wake of the Election Commission's decision of postponing the polls in the state by three months.

Punjab Governor Protests Postponement

BK2206164291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 22 (AFP)—Punjab Governor O.P. Malhotra offered to quit Saturday in protest against the 11th-hour postponement of elections in the troubled northern state, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr. Malhotra, a former army chief, made the offer when he met President Ramaswamy Venkataraman here on the same day that the northern state troubled by Sikh separatism was originally due to go to the polls, PTI said. Independent confirmation of the report was not immediately available.

Mr. Malhotra reportedly told the president that the postponement announced Friday by the Election Commission had demoralised administrative and security forces officials in Punjab.

Official sources said that Mr. Malhotra had a 20-minute meeting with Mr. Venkataraman and that he had sought a meeting with new Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The sources said his talks with the president were related to the Punjab polls, which have been postponed for three months by the Election Commission, which functions independently of the government.

Newspapers speculated Saturday that Mr. Malhotra, who had favored the polls, was likely to quit because of the postponement of the balloting.

Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan postponed the polls to Punjab's 117 state legislature seats and 13 federal constituencies until September 25. The announcement came hours before Mr. Rao was sworn in as India's ninth premier. Mr. Rao has publicly endorsed the Election Commissions decision.

Mr. Rao's Congress (I) Party and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) boycotted the elections in Punjab, saying a free and fair ballot was impossible when Sikh separatist violence was rampant. Some 24 candidates and scores of their supporters were murdered by Sikh separatists opposing the voting.

Punjab has been under direct federal rule since May 1987 when a Congress (I) government in New Delhi sacked an elected Sikh government there for failing to combat Sikh militancy.

Punjab Governor Quits Over Postponement

BK2206171091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1701 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 22 (AFP)—Punjab Governor O.P. Malhotra quit Saturday in protest against the 11th-hour postponement of elections in the northern state torn by Sikh separatism, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI quoted unnamed sources from the governor's official residence in the city of Chandigarh as saying Mr. Malhotra had submitted his resignation to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman when he met with him here earlier. Official announcement of the resignation was awaited.

Mr. Malhotra, a former army chief, was earlier reported to have offered to resign his office as the chief administrator of Punjab, which was originally due to go to the polls Saturday, PTI said. [passage omitted]

Delhi Reports Resignation of Punjab Governor

BK2306011091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The Punjab governor, General O.P. Malhotra, has resigned. He submitted his resignation to the President, Mr. R. Venkataraman, in New Delhi yesterday. AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent understands that General Malhotra has been asked to continue in his office for the time being.

Meanwhile, General Malhotra has summoned a high level meeting of state officials directly connected with the law and order situation this morning in Chandigarh.

BJP To Vote Against Confidence Motion

BK2206091491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] will vote against the motion of confidence to be brought forward in the Lok Sabha by the new government. This was stated by the party leader Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee at a news conference in New Delhi today. Mr. Vajpayee said it is for the government to prove its majority on the floor of the house and his party will not bail it out.

Replying to a question, the BJP leader said his party will have floor coordination with other opposition parties without compromising its ideology. He said the new cabinet is oversized and does not give adequate representation to all the states. Mr. Vajpayee said the ruling party should take an initiative to reach a consensus on the election of the new speaker and establish healthy norms. He also criticized the Election Commission for postponing the elections in Punjab. He said whichever government is responsible for this decision, it should have consulted all political parties.

Parties Pass Resolutions on Issues

BK2206130691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] says the National Front left combine should determine its attitude toward the new government by judging its policies on each issue. In a resolution adopted by the national council of the party in New Delhi, it said the alliance must respond to the mood of the people who do not want another poll. The resolution called upon the Congress-I not to adopt any undemocratic and unethical methods for securing majority. The two-day meeting of the council ended yesterday.

The Forward Block says it will support any good move of the government, but will oppose antipeople policies. In a resolution adopted at its Central Committee meeting in New Delhi, the party also urged the government to identify major national issues and convene an all-party meeting to reach a consensus on appropriate measures to tackle them.

The senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said his party will vote against the motion of confidence to be brought forward in the Lok Sabha by the new government. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said it is for the government to prove its majority on the floor of the house and his party will not bail it out.

The Bharatiya Janata Party says the election results show that the idea of reconstruction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya has received overwhelming public support in Uttar Pradesh. The resolution adopted by the party's national executive in New Delhi expressed the hope that all parties will recognize the strength of the sentiment and cooperate with the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh for an early and amicable settlement of the issue.

Remarks by Rao on Pawar, Gandhi Murder, Punjab

BK2106163991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has taken over as the new prime minister of India, heading a 53-member ministry. The president, Mr. Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers in the historic Ashoke Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan this afternoon. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said Mr. Sharad Pawar will be joining the cabinet a little later. Mr. Pawar, who was present at the swearing-in ceremony, also said he will move to Delhi after relinquishing the chief ministership of Maharashtra. [passage omitted]

Talking to newsmen soon after the swearing-in, the prime minister said getting the economy back in shape would be the top priority of the government. Mr. Narasimha Rao said his ministry is broadbased with due representation to the weaker sections. Mr. Rao said it is likely to be expanded after the budget and removed doubts about Mr. Sharad Pawar not moving to Delhi.

[Begin recording] [Rao] I know that he was joining.

[Unidentified reporter] He was to join today (?this morning)?

[Rao] He will join a little later, because he has to first sort out the position in Maharashtra. [end recording]

The prime minister refused to be drawn into any hasty conclusions on the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] involvement in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

[Begin Rao recording] I would not like to agree or disagree with your presumption. But without agreeing with that, we will have to wait for the terms of reference to be finalized in regard to the commission of inquiry and then the inquiry itself. [end recording]

Questioned on the postponement of Punjab elections, he said the decision was that of the Election Commission.

[Begin recording] [Rao] We have (?said) that under the circumstances which are prevailing there, we do not expect a fair and free election there.

[Unidentified reporter] Right.

[Rao] So, we wanted election to be actually canceled. Now the CEC [chief election commissioner] has postponed the election. Many other parties have been...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Are you (?satisfied) with the decision of the CEC?

[Rao] Well, if we have been asking for the same thing, and if the CEC has done it, naturally. [end recording]

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, visited the South Bloc [of the Parliament] this evening and held discussions with senior officers at the prime minister's office. He discussed with them the agenda for the next few days and asked them to work out priorities and tasks for the government. The prime minister will be holding a meeting with the officials of the Finance Ministry tomorrow to discuss the economic situation. The first meeting of the union cabinet is also expected to be held tomorrow.

Gorbachev Greets New Prime Minister Rao

BK2306034491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, has congratulated Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao on his taking over as prime minister. In his message, Mr. Gorbachev expressed the hope that India and the Soviet Union will continue to strive together for a nuclear-free and nonviolent world and strengthen the Indo-Soviet treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

The leader of the opposition in Bangladesh and Awami League president, Sheikh Hasina, has also greeted the new prime minister.

13 Killed in Bihar Villages by 'Armed Miscreants'

BK2306125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] In Bihar, 13 people were killed in Bhojpur District last night. Seven were seriously injured. The state additional director general of police told our Patna correspondent that seven persons were killed at (Devbandha) and six at (Saiyyar) village by armed miscreants who attacked the villages simultaneously. The chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, and senior officials have rushed to the scene of the incident. The situation is tense but under control.

Gunmen Kill Municipal Councillor in Punjab

BK2406032891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-I municipal councillor, Mr. Tara Singh, was shot dead by three unidentified gunmen in Amritsar last night. He was elected to the Amritsar Municipal Corporation in the elections held in April this year.

Defense Research Institutes Planned

BK2306090891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The Defense Research and Development Organization [DRDO] is setting up an institute in collaboration with a private company to make products based on spin-off of technologies developed for integrated guided missile programs. Disclosing this in Hyderabad, the director of DRDO, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, said that the institute is likely to be established by the end of this year. He also informed that the DRDO is also setting up another institute of advanced technology in collaboration with the Institute of Science, Bangalore. This institute will carry out research in the frontier area of defense sciences.

DMK President Resigns From Tamil Nadu Assembly

BK2206131491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] The DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] president, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has resigned from the Tamil Nadu assembly. In a statement issued in Madras today, Mr. Karunanidhi said he owes responsibility for the defeat of the party in the state.

Commission Members Resign, Submit Draft Plan

BK2306131691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] The deputy chairman of Planning Commission, Mr. Mohan Dharia, has resigned along with five of the members of the commission. One member, Professor G.S. Bhalla, is now abroad. Mr. Dharia submitted the resignation to the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today. This is to enable the new government to reconstitute the commission according to its choice.

Official sources say the commission members presented full set of draft material for the much delayed eighth five-year plan and explained to the prime minister the salient features of the approach to the plan. Our correspondent says the approach paper to the eighth plan was more or less finalized by the Rajiv Gandhi in 1989

before it went for elections. The National Front government prepared a fresh document but could not see it through. The Chandra Shekhar government gave some fresh direction to the Planning Commission and work was taken up afresh with a thrust on higher growth rate.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister To Challenge LTTE

BK2106163391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 21 (AFP)—Former movie star Jayalalitha Jayaram, chosen Friday as chief minister of Tamil Nadu state, quickly pledged to take on Sri Lankan Tamil militants who use her southern Indian coastal state as a base.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported that Ms. Jayalalitha said she would give top priority to fighting the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are suspected of involvement in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, her political ally. Mr. Gandhi, president of the Congress (I) Party, was killed exactly a month ago by a woman suicide bomber while campaigning in the Tamil Nadu town of Sriperumpudur.

The state is separated from Sri Lanka by the approximately 60 kilometre (37 mile) wide Palk Strait, and LTTE militants are believed to cross it frequently while maintaining an extensive network in Tamil Nadu. There are an estimated 200,000 Sri Lankan Tamils, including about 1,000 suspected rebels, living in the state.

Although she did not spell out specific measures, Ms. Jayalalitha, 43, said before her selection as chief minister that she would deport members of the LTTE and other Sri Lankan rebel groups.

Ms. Jayalalitha's election capped a meteoric rise in politics, which she entered under the tutelage of legendary Tamil politician M.G. Ramachandran, an ex-movie star with whom she starred in several films. He died in 1987.

She joined the the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in 1982 and was appointed its propoganda secretary within six months. The party is aligned with the Congress (I).

Ms. Jayalalitha, who is said to be under an LTTE death threat, did not attend her selection meeting, at which party legislators were required to pass through metal detectors. The legislators used the meeting to adopt a resolution urging "all concerned" to take "all steps" to protect their new leader's life.

Another resolution, blaming Mr. Gandhi's assassination on a "gun culture" spread throughout the state by "separatist forces" working with local collaborators, was also passed.

Ms. Jayalalitha's selection as Tamil Nadu's first ever female chief minister came the same day as a Congress (I) Party government headed by veteran P.V. Narasimha Rao assumed national office in New Delhi.

PTI said Ms. Jayalalitha, who was famed for her romantic roles, would be sworn in June 24.

In campaigning for the June 15 elections, she asked voters to "teach a lesson" to the rival Dravida Munn Kazhagam (DMK), a reference to an incident in which some DMK members allegedly tore her sari in the state assembly in 1989. The DMK, which was routed in the elections, is widely considered to be sympathetic to the LTTE.

In brief remarks to reporters after her selection as chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha said the state's economic development would be her government's principal long-term goal, PTI said.

BJP on Comission To Probe Ayodhya Deaths

BK2106054491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata party] government to be formed in Uttar Pradesh will consider setting up a new commission of inquiry to look into the killings in Ayodhya on the 30th of October and 2d of November last year or else it may consider changing the terms of reference of the commission set up by the Mulayam Singh Yadav government in this regard. Announcing this to newsmen in Lucknow, the senior vice president of the state Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. Lalji Tondon, said that his party's government will see that those found guilty are punished.

Iran

Ayatollah Yazdi's Friday Sermons Reported

LD2106120991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the Judicial Power, in today's Tehran Friday prayers sermons offered his condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of [Shiite imam] His Holiness Imam Muhammad Baqir, peace be upon him, and honored the memory of the dear martyrs of the Tir incident [bomb explosion at the Islamic Republican Party headquarters in 1981] particularly martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti.

In the first sermon Tehran's substitute Friday imam recalled that the first to the seventh of the month of Tir has been announced as the Judicial Power week which coincides with the great incident of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti, the first official in charge of the Judicial Power of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his dear companions. He elaborated on parts of the responsibilities and performance of that power and said: Islamic judicial laws contain the richest and the best laws and the most appropriate methods of human rights protection have been envisaged in them.

The substitute Tehran Friday imam then referred to the current year's hajj ritual and the disavowal of the infidels congress, praising its glorious performance. He admired the message of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims.

Ayatollah Yazdi pointed to the highlights of the message and, discussing Palestine's current problems, said: As the leader of the Islamic revolution has graciously said, the gravest danger to the world of Islam is the usurper Zionist regime and for that reason struggle against that regime should continue forcefully.

He also called on the international community to heed the Iraqi situation, and he condemned the bestial action of the Ba'thist regime against the Muslim people [of Iraq].

The substitute Friday imam of Tehran stated that bringing Islamic denominations closer together was another very important topic in the message of the guardian of the cause of the Muslims. He said: This is the issue which the great leader of the Islamic revolution emphasized most since the outset of the Islamic movement.

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers

LD2206084491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1023 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Friday sermons by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary Branch, at Tehran University on 21 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In the first sermon we used to have a debate on surveying the Islamic judicial system. However, we are to discontinue that debate this Friday because of the judicial week, which is to start tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Rather than engaging in the debate on the judicial system, I would present to you a report on the performance of the judiciary. As you know, the judiciary is divided into two main branches. Indeed, when the Constitution was being drawn up, the division of the judiciary into two parts took a great deal of discussion; and when the Constitution was amended, that point was also debated extensively by the experts. The first judiciary branch consists of administrative and financial affairs, while the second part is affairs related to judiciary. During debates on amending the Constitution, many experts on the committee believed that administrative and financial affairs of the Ministry of Justice need not be under the jurisdiction of the head of judiciary, because in the management of these affairs it is not incumbent on the administrator to be a mujtahed [fully fledged theologian] and to have qualifications of a mujtahed. But eventually it was decided to place all these affairs under one management. [passage omitted]

As to the judicial sector, it is a vast setup which administers a vast array of laws whether constitutional or otherwise. I can tell you some general aspects in two or three segments—on centralized management, human resources, and supervision—and then on the result of our work. I shall also seek to erase several slanders brought against the judiciary.

We changed the judiciary from a consultative system to a centralized system and in so doing we availed ourself of the views of experts, lawyers, specialists, and so forth. [passage omitted] Now this system has clarified everybody's duties; there is a job description, an organizational chart, and an orderly setup. To do so we have had to add several offices such as assessment, which clarifies the qualifications, personality, and competence of the judges as well as their background—whether before or after revolution. [passage omitted]

We also have an office, known as the Office of International Affairs, which handles a large number of judicial issues related to international affairs—that is, affairs among states. I must say that we are members of 13 international bodies which work on judicial and legal affairs. We are official members of these and pay our quota and can utilize their resources; we have the right to go there, and ask them to come here, and must do so. In the past, because of the country's difficulties, we seldom utilized resources of that [International Affairs] office. But now it is active, and several official trips at the level of minister, vice minister, and head of organization have taken place. Hundreds of issues are under discussion at the international level, such as marine law and airspace law and disputes between our country and other countries. These could include payment of debts and claims of what is due to us; or flight of our aircraft over somebody's air space or aircraft of others over our airspace, and dues concerning them and disputes which may arise. [passage omitted]

At the top of the job description of the said office, the first task which has been assigned to it is to introduce the Islamic judicial system to the world and to learn about the existing systems in the world. We believe it is a very necessary task, to which I have repeatedly referred. We believe that we have the best and richest legal sources; we have the best laws; we have the best methods of preserving human rights, which we have gotten from Islam, and yet the world does not know about it. The world does not recognize this. It believes that we must copy France, Germany, Japan, and so on in our various laws, because the world does not know about our wealth of legal material. I have personally studied some of these codes and found many weaknesses in them—weaknesses which we can raise at international meetings and defend Islam's views. Of course, we need to pay more attention to this issue. I hope we will be able to tell the world about the Islamic judicial system. [passage omitted]

Thus, the Office of International Affairs must work on a varied agenda—from introducing Islamic legal system to the world to day-to-day problems, some of which are very interesting even for us. For instance, an Iranian has married a foreign wife, then they separated, and now

they have a dispute on guardianship of their child. He does not want to have his child brought up in a foreign country; he has brought the child here. This has brought about a strange legal case. They have accused him of being a kidnapper. Here we have placed the child under judicial ward. Then his mother has come to Iran to see the child. We told her that if she intended to take the child away, not only we would charge her as a kidnapper but also she can be prosecuted under other charges. That is how our legal system works, and that is how your legal system works. There are rules when two countries' laws conflict. [passage omitted]

In the name of God, the beneficent, the merciful. [passage omitted] The time is very short, but I refer to several points in the most interesting, full of content, and multi-dimensional remarks of his great leadership. His Eminence Ayatollah Kamene'i, may God elongate his noble shadow. In one of the remarks it is said that if hajj is the great annual congress of the Muslims across the world, undoubtedly the most urgent agenda for that congress is to investigate the current issues of Muslims everywhere in the world. Truly it is so. Hajj is an annual congress, and in that congress current issues must be raised; and the first issue is avoidance of polytheism, idols, and idolatry. Fortunately all of you are witness to and are informed that, thank God, after several years, the ceremony of disavowal of the polytheists was held in the best possible way and loftiest program in blessed Mecca. This is a sign of the intelligence of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran at all levels. [passage omitted]

The reports in Europe on what goes on in Iraq, the massacres, the destruction, and some brutalities that...I stress that those are reported from the European states—and America usually tries to doubt the truth of those reports. The reason for America's doubt about those reports is very clear. If the reports are really true, which they are—I do not invoke the internal or opposition sources, I invoke the European states—why is the world indifferent to the reports that are given? Anyway, before long the curtains will part, those crimes will become clearer, and the officials of international organizations will be faced with the questions of the world community [jame'e-ye bashari].

Another one of the remarks of the eminent leadership is that the usurping Zionist government is the greatest danger facing the world of Islam now and in the future. Truly this is correct. While that cancerous growth is in the region and her support by the great arrogance, America, exists, the threat is greater than any other for the Islamic world and definitely the Muslims; especially the Afghan mujahidin [correct himself] Palestinian mujahidin must continue their struggles. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

The esteemed leader also says that we have always striven to unite the various Muslim denominations and have tried to foil the mischief of arrogance. [passage omitted]

Today the threat of American-style Islam is greater than that of America's military and propaganda tools. This statement is very precise and sensitive. It should be pondered and studied. If America were to take over a place militarily, today's world does not attach too much importance to military powers; the use of military power has been limited. But if she were to enter a war of ideology and faith and implement a plan somewhere in the name of Islam and say it is Islam, we would normally interpret it as American-style Islam; that is, monopoly in certain types of individual worship and slogans having nothing to do with political issues, not discussing world events, and having simple rituals and leaving others alone. That is American-style Islam; America at its summit. It should be said that world arrogance wants a kind of Islam where Muslims would have nothing to do with their world, government, or politics. If there are such Muslims around, even if there are millions upon millions of them, there would be no problems.

But if there are Muslims who believe in pure Muhammadan Islam [crowd chants religious slogans], that is, if a person like the Prophet of Islam establishes a government and they have war, judiciary, punishment, retribution, taxes, government departments, an organized system, if Muslims were like that, even 50 or 60 million of them would be very sensitive and dangerous for them.

Therefore, one should be very careful about the danger of an American-style Islam—that is, one that says the government has nothing to do with Islam—being far greater than that of weapons. It is a very interesting point Khamene'i made. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Praises Citizens in Hajj Ceremonies

LD2006211891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in his reply to a report by Vali-ye Faqih envoy and overseer of Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri on the holding of the disavowal of the infidels ceremony, has sent this message:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Sheykh Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, may his noble existence be prolonged, after greetings and congratulations on the report of the glorious holding of the ceremony of disavowal of pantheism and the infidels, we thank God Almighty; and we consider it to have resulted from God's blessing and the auspicies of the Remainder of God—may my soul be sacrificed for Him - on our believing, truthful, and self-sacrificing nation. May this great success be auspicious for the hajj pilgrims, who have managed through their presence to give the great ceremonies of hajj an Abrahamite and Muhammadan—peace be upon them and their scion—hue, and pleased the sacred soul of the demised imam, may God Almighty be pleased with him. I hope that the success in the carrying out of the hajj ceremonies renders God's blessing on them complete. [passage omitted]

'Antipathy' Rally Said 'Ideally' Conducted

LD2006081691 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Mecca, June 20, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, personal envoy of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, told reporters here Wednesday that the 'antipathy towards pagans' rally by the Iranian pilgrims had been conducted ideally on Tuesday. The antipathy towards pagans rally was held in the holy city of Mecca after three years in which hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from Iran and other countries participated.

Superintendent of the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca said the rally had been organized in front of the representative office of the leader of the Islamic Republic here. He said the venue of the rally had been decided in consultation with the Saudi officials who, he said, took a needlessly long time to respond to the Iranian officials in that respect.

Meanwhile in a ceremony at the Arg Mosque in downtown Tehran Wednesday the Martyrs Foundation paid tribute to the many Iranian pilgrims who lost their lives in Mecca in 1987 when the Saudi police opened fire on demonstrators who had taken part on the antipathy towards pagans rally. Speaking to the audience in Arg Mosque Majles Speaker and head of the Martyrs Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi quoted Imam Khomeyni as saying that pilgrimage to Mecca should be in the 'Abrahamian' manner and that "struggle against the world arrogance" should rank high in the blueprint of the cultural life of the Muslims.

Khamene'i Calls for Reconstruction of Iran

LD1806223391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpts] This morning His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, received large groups of Muslim people of various classes. In a speech he blamed the unjust, dictatorial, and short-sighted rulers of the past two centuries for the talented and intelligent people of Iran's falling behind in the race for knowledge and wisdom. He stressed that the country's construction should be carried out by the able brains and strong arms of Iranian youth, scientists, and specialists. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution described the poverty, backwardness, and ignorance in many parts of Iran as cursed signs of the era of the satanic powers. [passage omitted]

Stressing that we are not averse to using the knowledge and experience of other countries and nations, he said: Iranians should build this country because foreigners do not care about our country. Scientists, specialists, trained brains, and outstanding human beings must make an effort to make Islamic Iran a model country. They should also utilize the experience, knowledge, and expertise of others. We will not close the door of learning to ourselves and will utilize knowledge and experience from any corner of the world. That is an Islamic tenet and what we say today. [passage omitted]

SALAM Chief Editor Views Government Policy

NC2006201991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Jun 91 pp 1, 11

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tehran—Transfer of state owned companies to the private sector, contrary to the previous government's policies after the revolution, is an economic policy adopted after the new government took office," says Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha.

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES Ko'iniha said that after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution up to the end of the previous government, there was a controlled economic system. Confiscation of big companies and similar measures by the former government was aimed at curbing capitalist influence and turned the economy into a government controlled economic system. The same applied to foreign trade. After ten years, it was maintained that the past experience showed that a controlled system had failed and therefore a change was required.

"Economic policies after the Islamic Revolution were all aimed at turning over the Shah's policies," he said adding that after the acceptance by Iran of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the taking office of the new government, economic policies changed radically against trends prevailing over the past ten years because the achievements fell short of expectations."

Ko'iniha took the government to task for a lack of expert research into its programs and said, "Though it is said that programs are implemented according to expert research and advice, there are economists who do not believe that the present policies are the correct ones," he added.

The 51-year old Ko'iniha who is the editor-in-chief of the newly published Persian morning daily "Salam," warned that the new economic policies will be held to blame if those who get richer every day team up and influence the decision-making bodies of the country and paralyze its affairs.

Asked if some of the government's economic policies, as some may hold is against the constitution, Kho'iniha who also heads the Strategic Studies Department said, "According to the Constitution, there should be neither full government control nor a disproportionate accumulation of wealth by the few. Some believe that the present regulations and laws have made the rich richer and no one has asked the Guardians Council its views on this." "Instead," he said, "it is now being aimed at removing full government control in the economy."

"The present economic policies would be against Islam if it leads to accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few in the country," warned Kho'iniha.

He condemned the invitation extended to Iranians abroad to return home and said that the return of the capitalists will leave many political, economic and socially negative impacts within the country.

"The first negative impact," he added, "will be on the devoted people and the invitation means that our devoted soldiers lack capability and we had to appeal to those who deserted their people and deviated from the revolution."

Kho'iniha who was making an indirect reference to the recent speeches in New York of the Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli who had invited Iranians to return home and invest in their own country, said, "Even if those invited are not fugitive capitalists and have left the country twenty or thirty years ago, it means that the devoted to the revolution are not capable." "The same applies in the political arena and the question that comes to mind is this "If economic management after the revolution was weak, political management was also weak and therefore fugitive politicians should have also been invited to Iran."

Furthermore, they will not bring a single dollar into Iran but instead will want loans for investment and many of them fled the country with huge debts before the revolution, he explained.

Kho'iniha who is also a member of the Expediency Council described the government's neutrality during the Persian Gulf war as a correct stance, which if the Imam was alive he would have approved. But he added that he does not support all government policies.

The late Imam Khomeyni was against inviting Iranians abroad if it means deviating from the principles of the revolution, he stressed.

Turning to the subject of improving relations between Iran and the Western powers as well as Arab countries, he said, "If establishing relations with the outside world means ignorning our principles it is something condemnable. There is no problem about establishing or improving ties with Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, but all the same time we should never stop antipathy rallies against infidels or propagating against the U.S.."

"We cannot resume any relations with the U.S. Administration for many years," he said.

Paper Warns of 'Genocide' in Southern Iraq

NC2006205591 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam Plans Horrible Genocide in Southern Iraq"]

[Text] Saddam's war machine, which has apparently preserved enough clout against the defenseless civilians, is reportedly all set for a bloody and brutal crackdown on the Shia population in Southern Iraq.

After its devastating military defeat in the hands of the allied forces, the Iraqi regime has been pursuing a double-edged policy in the face of popular protests in the southern and northern parts of the country.

Initially Iraq started a ruthless suppression of the Shia Muslims in the south and the Kurdish insurgents in the north and drove millions of the Kurds to take refuge in Iran and Turkey. Later, after the plight of the Kurdish refugees came into the spotlight in the world media, Saddam Husayn changed his tactic, and adopted a conciliatory approach towards the Kurds. He started a series of negotiations with the Kurdish leaders which has not produced any tangible results after weeks of haggling. And many observers doubt that the talks will ever lead to a satisfactory agreement between the Kurds and the Iraqi regime.

But Saddam's show of peaceful intentions served a double purpose.

On the one hand it silenced the protests in the Western media over the Kurdish tragedy, and reduced the pressure of the international public opinion against Saddam. And on the other hand it had the effect of creating rifts among the ranks of the internal insurgent groups, resulting in the ultimate isolation of the Shia Muslims in the south.

Saddam's double-dealing has been more or less successful as evidenced by the alternate presences of Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani in Baghdad in the past month or so.

Having thus diverted world attention from Iraq, the inhuman Ba'thist regime now feels it can carry out with impunity the massacre of the Shia Muslims. Actually Saddam's main encouragement for perpetrating this horrible scheme so nonchalantly comes from the silence of the world media over what has been happening in the south of Iraq during the past weeks. In particular one misconception that has crept into the world media's coverage of the events relative to the Shia opposition is the supposition that the Iraqi regime is faced by a rebellious minority group in the south. Whereas the truth of the matter is that Shia Muslims represent as much as 60 percent of the Iraqi population. Thus in effect Saddam is about to engage in a genocide of the majority of his nation.

The crimes contemplated by the murderous rulers of Baghdad are of such horrible dimensions that the international community cannot morally afford to remain silent or indifferent.

The principle of nonintervention into the internal affairs of countries should not be made to include outright murder by a dictator against the majority of his nation, and the world community would face an uncertain and

dark future if it did not rise and cry out in protest against the outrageous crimes Saddam is planning to commit in Southern Iraq.

Karrubi Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah

LD1806224391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] At a meeting this morning between 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a notable Lebanese scholar, and Majles Speaker Karrubi, 'Allamah Fadlallah described the situation in Lebanon. He said: Despite the efforts of world arrogance to take control of the fate of Lebanon, inspired by the Islamic revolution, the Muslim people of that country have stood against any kind of conspiracy.

Mr. Karrubi stressed the necessity for stronger solidarity among the Muslims and the stepping up of resistance to the Zionist regime. Referring to the incorrect analysis made by world arrogance, he said: Under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic Republic of Iran will steadfastly pursue the goals of the Islamic revolution at home and abroad.

President Receives Bahrain, PRC, Spanish Envoys

LD1806224291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received separately the new ambassadors of China and Bahrain. At these meetings, the two new ambassadors presented their credentials and declared that their countries are ready to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction at the growing trend of cooperation between the two neighbor and Muslim countries of Iran and Bahrain. He also hoped that the good relations between Iran and China will expand further in all fields and in proportion to the friendliness and sincerity existing between the two countries.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also received the departing Spanish ambassador this morning. At this meeting, the Spanish ambassador said he was satisfied with his term of office in Tehran. He also praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's wise policies during the recent Persian Gulf crisis and lauded Iran's important role in the region and the world.

Pakistan

Reportage on Sajjad Visit to U.S.

Sharif Says Aim of Visit Achieved

BK2206160191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Wasim Sajjad, the Senate chairman, briefed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the outcome of his recently concluded trip to the United States at a meeting in Lahore this afternoon. Foreign Affairs Secretary General Akram Zaki accompanied the Senate chairman in his trip. Wasim Sajjad apprised the prime minister of the positive response of American political leaders and the U.S. Administration and media to his latest proposal on nuclear nonproliferation. The prime minister had made a proposal during the visit of the high-level delegation led by Wasim Sajjad to Washington that the United States, the Soviet Union, the PRC, Pakistan, and India should hold consultations to check the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia. The prime minister had made it clear at the outset that the visit of the Senate chairman to the United States was not aimed at restoration of aid, but paving the way for resumption of negotiations between the two friendly countries which have had friendly ties for nearly 40 years. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction that the objective has been achieved by the Senate chairman's visit to the United States and that he has been successful in reestablishing contacts with the U.S. leadership at various levels. The prime minister said that we consider the friendship as more important than Pakistan's [word indistinct] economic considerations. He expressed the hope that the important friendship mission will help with the better understanding of Pakistan's problems and regional issues.

Sajjad's Visit To Improve Ties

BK2406005491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1909 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, June 23 (AFP)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Sunday that Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad's visit to the United States would help improve strained relations between the two countries.

The premier said in an official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN report that the visit, the first such high-level contact with Washington since he took office in November, was "successful and constructive" in reviving "friendship and mutual relations."

Mr. Sharif said the main aim of the trip was to "remove the strain" caused by "misunderstanding" and added that he planned to send more delegations to Washington to strengthen bilateral relations.

Mr. Sharif said the purpose of Mr. Sajjad's visit was not to seek resumption of the 600 million dollars in annual U.S. aid suspended in October.

Washington cut off military and economic assistance to Islamabad when U.S. President George Bush declined to certify to Congress that Pakistan was not building nuclear weapons.

In Islamabad, Mr. Sajjad said Pakistan would not accept any discriminatory treatment on the nuclear issue.

Talking to newsmen, he said he made it clear to the U.S. Administration that Pakistan's nuclear programme was

for peaceful applications. He said Islamabad wanted an "even-handed" approach towards the nuclear issue.

Upon his return Saturday, Mr. Sajjad, who met with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and Secretaries of State and Defense James Baker and Dick Cheney as well as other officials, said his delegation had "achieved its objectives."

But he added that differences remained on the aid cut, over which he said the two sides had agreed to "continue discussions."

He said the State Department welcomed Mr. Sharif's proposal earlier this month that the United States, the Soviet Union, China, India and Pakistan hold talks on nuclear proliferation in South Asia.

Senate Chairman on Visit

BK2106120591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jun 91 p 12

[Report by Masood Haider in New York]

[Text] June 20: "Why don't you believe me? We did not come to Washington to talk about American aid, nor did we bring it up in any of our meetings with the officials of Bush administration, or the US lawmakers."

This was the categorical and firm statement by Washim Sajjad, Chairman of Pakistan Senate and the leader of country's delegation at the conclusion of his trip to Washington. The stated purpose of the visit was to "warm up" the strained ties between the United States and Pakistan.

"We can live without US aid," Mr. Sajjad declared in an interview with THE MUSLIM on Monday night.

So why was Pakistan delegation so elated and felt so joyous when the US House of Representatives passed a bill tying India with the requirements of the Pressler Amendment which bars American aid to Pakistan if the President of the United States is unable to certify that it does not possess nuclear capability? Mr. Sajjad replied, "Well, that is a matter of principle, if you are applying a law to one country in the region for possession of nuclear capability, same principle should be applied to other such powers in the region."

Mr. Sajjad, who remained cool, calm and unruffled under intense scrutiny about the perceived purpose of Pakistan's nuclear programme said that we understand that US aid had become a contentious issue. We also know that the American administration has to abide by its law and we have to look at our security interests—so we decided not to even raise the aid issue."

"We have so many other areas in which we can sit and cooperate with United States. We suggested to the Bush administration to isolate this aid issue and let's talk about ones where we can work together. So they agreed," he said.

In Mr. Sajjad's opinion, "The matter of U.S. aid can continue to be discussed as time goes by, but for the time being we succeeded in convincing the Americans to talk about other areas, of mutual interest.

What are the other areas?

"Well, there is the drug and narcotic issue, there is the Afghanistan problem and the Kashmir dispute. We made our case on all these matters and the officials of the Bush administration agreed with us on most things," said Mr. Sajjad.

Moreover, he stressed, the Bush administration did appreciate our position on the nuclear issue and agreed with the stand taken by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that this matter should be tackled on regional basis, with involvement of China, Soviet Union, and India.

When pressed whether in their talks with Vice President Quayle, Secretary of State Baker, Secretary of Defence Cheney and other U.S. officials and law-makers any reference was made to resume aid to Pakistan, Mr. Sajjad said. "No, not at all, I made it very clear from one out-set, we have come here to put the close and traditional U.S. ties on congenial grounds and correct the misgivings and misunderstandings."

What did the Pakistan delegation achieve in concrete and tangible terms?

"Well, the warm and friendly statement issued by the State Department appreciating our stand on the nuclear issue embracing Prime Minister Sharif's proposal to deal with it on regional basis was success enough" observed Mr. Sajjad.

He added, "As matter of fact I have just come back from a meeting with Dr. Henry Kissinger, a long time friend and ally of Pakistan, who commented, "indeed the State Department statement was good".

Mr. Sajjad said that in the matter of Kashmir dispute the Bush administration appreciated our position and expressed concern at the gross human rights violations in the valley, by India.

Did the delegation ask the administration officials to at least resume delivery of spare paris for the defence equipment, lying redundant with Pakistan Army?

"Why do you not believe me that we did not raise the issue at all? We told them we need your cooperation on Afghanistan on Kashmir, on control of drug trafficking, again we did not talk about aid.

In your meetings with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Secretary of State James Baker, was any concern shown over Pakistan's acquisition of missiles and tanks from China?

"No, not with Mr. Cheney or Mr. Baker but some officials of the State Department raised the issue and we told them this was a matter of our security requirements

and we would get arms from wherever we can to satisfy these requirements", said Mr. Sajjad.

The Senate Chairman said that Pakistan told the U.S. officials "We are against the weapons of mass destruction like everyone else, but why should Pakistan be singled out for acquiring such arms when India with which we have long-standing border disputes continues to acquire such weapons".

He asserted that if the issue of mass destruction weapons was to be addressed, it also has to be taken in the regional context and not as an isolated thing.

He added, "We told the officials that U.S. should also mediate in this matter and we are as much against the acquisition of these weapons as anyone else, but when our security interests are concerned, we have to get these weapons, like our adversaries."

Sajjad Disputes U.S. Action on Nuclear Issue

BK2306083891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Pakistan has once again told the United States that it will not accept any discriminatory decision against its peaceful nuclear program. This was stated in Islamabad today by the Senate chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, who is back home after a visit to the United States as the head of a high-level delegation. He said during his stay in the United States, he explained the peaceful nature of Pakistan's atomic program to the American leaders and officials (?in detail) at various levels.

About Kashmir, Mr. Wasim Sajjad said he told the Americans and the Secretary General of the United Nations that the general situation in occupied Kashmir was [words indistinct] self determination of the Kashmiris by India.

Sharif Discusses Law, Order With Khan, Leaders

BK2106164691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, today called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i Sadhr [President's House]. They reviewed the general security environment in the country, particularly the incidents of terrorism and the law and order situation in Sindh. The prime minister briefed the president about the measures proposed to be taken to improve the situation. He was accompanied by the federal minister for interior, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, and the federal interior secretary.

Earlier, the prime minister held day-long consultations with ministers, political leaders, and senior officials on the law and order situation in the country in general and Sindh in particular. Today's consultations included a meeting with the chief minister of Sindh, Jam Sadiq Ali, followed by an hour-long meeting with the governor of Sindh Mr. Mahmud Haroon.

Later, Mr. Nawaz Sharif held detailed discussions with the chairman of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Mr. Azim Ahmad Tariq, who was accompanied by Mr. Islam Nabi, minister for production; Dr. Imran Farooq, MNA [Member of National Assembly]; and Mr. M. Aslam, MNA. Also present on the occasion are Federal Minister for Interior Chaudhary Shujat Hussain. The discussion focused on the law and order situation in Sindh with particular reference to the recent incidents of lawless in Karachi. In a separate meeting later in the afternoon, the prime minister exchanged views on steps to arrest lawlessness, improve the general security environment, and beef up antiterrorist and antisabotage arrangements in the country. The federal minister for interior, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain; Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Rana Chander Singh; and the federal minister for Railways, Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani; and senior officials participated in the discussion.

Sharif Congratulates Narasimha Rao on Election

BK2106072591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Nawaz Sharif has said that he has congratulated Congress-I president Narasimha Rao on the success of his party in the Indian General Elections. Via telephone with the Indian premier-designate, he stressed the need for making serious efforts to resolve all outstanding issues between Pakistan and India. The prime minister said that Narasimha Rao has expressed desire to resolve the problems so that bilateral relations can be improved. Nawaz Sharif expressed hope that the new Indian Government will support Pakistan's proposal to convene a five-nation conference to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. Replying to a question, he described Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad's U.S. mission as successful. He said that U.S. policymakers have welcomed Pakistan's proposal to check nuclear proliferation. China also has supported Pakistan's proposal in this regard.

Kashmir Leader Urges Rao To Cede Indian Kashmir

BK2206152691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 22 (AFP)—The president of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum, has called upon the new Indian prime minister to give up Indian-controlled Kashmir.

P.V. Narasimha Rao should "immediately stop further oppression in Indian-occupied Kashmir" and "accept the fundamental right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people," he said in an interview published Saturday.

Indian leaders should "understand the fact that the liberation movement in Indian-held Kashmir has entered into a decisive stage," Mr. Qayyum told the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN.

More than 2,400 people have been killed since January 1990 in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir, where

Kashmiri Moslem militants have launched a movement to separate India's only Moslem-majority state.

Mr. Qayyum said he hoped India would "desist from carrying out its rigid policy (and) fulfill its international commitment of holding (a) plebiscite in the disputed territory."

He alleged "unprovoked firing" on the border population and violations of the ceasefire line by India, and called for an immediate halt to them, adding that it would be unwise for India to maintain an anti-Pakistan policy.

Resolution of the Kashmir dispute, however, is essential to good relations between the countries and peace in the region, Mr. Qayyum said.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of helping the Kashmiri militants. Pakistan denies the charge, but claims the right to extend moral and political support to the Kashmiri Moslems.

Kashmir has been at the heart of two of the three wars fought between India and Pakistan since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

Sri Lanka

Further Reportage on Blast Damage in Colombo

Blast Causes Extensive Damage

BK2106115691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] A large explosion took place at approximately 1000 today opposite the side entrance to the Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defense at Sir Ernest de Silva (Mawatte), Colombo-7. A large crater, approximately 10 feet by 10 feet diameter, has been created at the site of the explosion. Initial reports indicate that approximately 20 persons have been killed and about 50 persons injured. Among those killed are several soldiers who were on guard duty and civilians who were passing by. Extensive damage has been caused to about 50 houses in the immediate vicinity of the explosion. Around 100 houses have suffered lesser damage. About 20 vehicles have been totally destroyed. A further 30 to 40 vehicles have been damaged. The Ministry of Defense believes that this operation was carried out by separatist terrorists.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa deplored this cowardly act which has brought about deaths and destruction to a large number of innocent civilians. He has issued instructions to tighten security. He has also instructed the health services to accord medical assistance to the injured. He conveyed his deepest sympathies to the members of the bereaved families and those who have suffered injuries and loss.

More Details on Blast

BK2106135991 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1248 GMT 21 Jun 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 21 Jun (LANKAPUVATH)—The separatist terrorist sucide car bomb which exploded this morning outside the Defence Ministry's Operational Headquarters in Colombo, killing an estimated 20 security force personnel and wounding 50 others, many of them civilians was very likely packed with plastic explosives and weighed about 70 kilos, said Acting Defence Secretary Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando at a news conference this afternoon.

It was double the velocity of the bomb which killed the late Minister of State for Defence General Ranjan Wijeratne.

He said the bomb was not electronically detonated, but was set off manually by a sucide bomber who drove a vehicle to a side entrance of the operational headquarters which is still popularly known by its earlier name JOC (Joint Operations Command).

The bomb had been exploded at this point. Both the terrorist car bomber and the sentry on duty at this gate which leads to the car park were believed killed. It had created a crater 10 feet in diameter and 4 feet deep.

In response to a question, the air chief marshal agreed only LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was capable of an explosion of such magnitude.

Presidential Advisor on International Relations Bradman Weerakoon who presided at the news conference said an estimated 20 persons had been killed and 50 wounded, many of them civilian passersby. They were also checking reports of a child being seriously injured in adjoining ladies college.

The figure might go up beyond that in the final count. About 100 private residences were damaged, 50 of them extensively. He said the Defence Ministry's operational headquarters located at Sir Ernest de Silva Mawatha (formerly Flower Road), was badly damaged.

Ten security personnel in the transport pool were killed by the blast. So also were soldiers in the billets across the road where the media section is also housed and where journalists, including foreign correspondents, call to get the latest information on the situation in the north and east.

Mr. Weerakoon said about 70 vehicles, including those parked in homes, were damaged. All senior officials at the operational headquarters were safe. The government analyst was making his investigations at the scene.

Presidential Advisor on International Relations Bradman Weerakoon said there was no cause to be alarmed, but called for heightened public vigilance. [passage omitted]

Security Heightened at High Commission

BK2206082091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0746 GMT 22 Jun 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Jun (LANKAPUVATH)—Security for the Indian High Commission in Colombo and the High Commissioner's residence was heightened by the Sri Lankan Government.

A senior police official said the beefing up of security for the Indian diplomatic mission in Colombo was a precautionary measure. "We are taking precautions", he said. Police strength has been increased around the Indian High Commission at Galle Road, Kollupitiya and the High Commissioner's residence at Thurstan Road, in Cinnamon Gardens.

Traffic was stopped by the police on the northbound lane on the stretch of Galle Road opposite the Indian High Commission and similarly opposite the High Commissioner's residence.